WO02083925

Publication Title:

PAPAYA RINGSPOT VIRUS GENES

Abstract:

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Data supplied from the esp@cenet database - http://ep.espacenet.com

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date 24 October 2002 (24.10.2002)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number WO 02/083925 A2

(51) International Patent Classification7:

C12Q

(21) International Application Number: PCT/US02/11805

(22) International Filing Date: 11 April 2002 (11.04.2002)

(25) Filing Language:

English

(26) Publication Language:

English

(30) Priority Data: 60/283,007

11 April 2001 (11.04.2001) US

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- (81) Designated States (national): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NO, NZ, OM, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.
- (84) Designated States (regional): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

 without international search report and to be republished upon receipt of that report

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

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(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to the isolation and identification of nucleic acid sequences encoding the coat protein of papaya rinspot virus in the Kapono (KA), Keaau (KE), Thailand (TH), Brazil (BR), Jamaica (JA), Mexico (ME), Venezuela (VE), and Oahu (OA) strains, and the uses thereof to impart viral resistance to papaya plants. The present invention also relates to nucleic acid constructs containing individual or multiple papaya ringspot virus coat protein-encoding nucleic acid sequences, and host cells and transgenic plants and seeds containing such constructs. The present invention is also directed to a method of using such constructs to impart to plants resistance to papaya ringspot virus.

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JC12 Rec'd PCT/PTC 11 JUL 2005

PAPAYA RINGSPOT VIRUS GENES

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FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to the isolation and purification of nucleic acid sequences encoding for papaya ringspot virus coat proteins, a method of conferring resistance to papaya ringspot virus by transforming plants with a construct containing one or more isolated viral coat protein nucleic acid sequences, and transgenic plants and seeds transformed with such multiple virus nucleic acid constructs.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

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Papaya (Carica papaya L.) is an important fruit crop grown widely in tropical and subtropical lowland regions (Manshardt, "Papaya in Biotechnology of Perennial Fruit Crops," ed. Hammerschlag, 21:489-511, CAB Int., Wallingford, UK (1992)). Worldwide, Brazil, India, and Mexico are the largest producers of papaya. Hawaii, the largest producer of papaya in the United States, exports 66% of the total fresh production, primarily to the U.S. mainland and to Japan (Martin, "Papaya Production Statistics," Proc. Annu. Hawaii Papaya Ind. Assoc. Conf., 39th, Kihei, pp. 31-36, Sept. 23-24 (1994)). In total production, papaya ranks above strawberries and below grapefruit (Manshardt, "Papaya in Biotechnology of Perennial Fruit Crops," ed. Hammerschlag, 21:489-511, CAB Int., Wallingford, UK (1992)). The FAO estimated that about 5.7 million metric tons of fruit were harvested in 1995, almost double the 1980 harvest (Galinsky, "World Market for Papaya," Reg. Agribus. Proj. Mark. Inf. Bull. Feb. No. 12, 5 pp. (1996)).

Papaya ringspot virus ("PRSV") is a member of the potyvirus group of plant viruses, which are pathogenic to several crop plants, and which exhibit cross-infectivity between members of different plant families. Generally, a potyvirus is a single-stranded (+) RNA plant virus. The viral genome is approximately 10,000 bases in length. The expression strategy of potyviruses includes translation of a complete polyprotein from the positive sense viral

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genomic RNA. PRSV is by far the most widespread and damaging virus that infects papaya, occurring worldwide wherever papaya is grown (Purcifull, "Papaya Ringspot Virus," CMI/AAB Descr. Plant Viruses, No. 292 (No. 84 Revis., July 1984) 8 pp. (1984)). PRSV infections have resulted in the devastation of the papaya industry in Brazil, Taiwan, and Hawaii in recent years (Gonsalves, D., "Control of Papaya Ringspot Virus in Papaya: A Case Study," Annu. Rev. Phytopathol. 36:415-37 (1998)). Various attempts have been made to control or prevent infection of crops by PRSV, but these have been largely unsuccessful.

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The concept of parasite-derived resistance ("PDR"), conceived in 10 the middle 1980s, offered a new approach for controlling PRSV (Sanford et al., "The Concept of Parasite-Derived Resistance - Deriving Resistance Genes from the Parasite's Own Genome," J. Theor. Biol. 113:395-405 (1985)). Parasitederived resistance is a phenomenon whereby transgenic plants containing genes or sequences of a parasite are protected against detrimental effects of the same or related pathogens. The application of PDR for plant viruses was first 15 demonstrated when transgenic tobacco expressing the coat protein gene of tobacco mosaic virus was protected against infection by tobacco mosaic virus (Powell-Abel et al., "Delay of Disease Development in Transgenic Plants that Express the Tobacco Mosaic Virus Coat Protein Gene," Science, 232:738-43 (1986)). Subsequent reports have shown that this approach is effective in controlling many 20 plant viruses (Lomonossoff, G.P., "Pathogen-Derived Resistance to Plant Viruses," Ann. Rev. Phytopathol, 33:323-43 (1995)).

The vast majority of reports regarding PDR have utilized the coat protein genes of the viruses that are targeted for control. Although the testing of transgenic plants have been largely confined to laboratory and greenhouse experiments, a growing number of reports have shown that resistance is effective under field conditions (Grumet, R., "Development of Virus Resistant Plants via Genetic Engineering," Plant Breeding Reviews 12:47-49 (1994)). Two virus resistant crops have been deregulated by the Animal and Plant Heath Information Service of the United States Department of Agriculture ("USDA/APHIS") and, thus, are approved for unrestricted release into the environment in the U.S. Squash that are resistant to watermelon mosaic virus 2 and zucchini yellow mosaic potyviruses have been commercialized (Fuchs et al., "Resistance of

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Transgenic Hybrid Squash ZW-20 Expressing the Coat Protein Genes of Zucchini Yellow Mosaic Virus and Watermelon Mosaic Virus 2 to Mixed Infections by Both Potyviruses," Bio/Technology 13:1466-73 (1995); Tricoli, et al., "Field Evaluation of Transgenic Squash Containing Single or Multiple Virus Coat Protein Gene Constructs for Resistance to Cucumber Mosaic Virus, Watermelon Mosaic Virus 2, and Zucchini Yellow Mosaic Virus," Bio/Technology 13:1458-65 (1995)). A transgenic Hawaiian papaya that is resistant to PRSV has also been developed (Fitch et al., "Virus Resistant Papaya Derived from Tissues Bombarded with the Coat Protein Gene of Papaya Ringspot Virus," Bio/Technology 10:1466-72 (1992); Tennant et al., "Differential Protection Against Papaya Ringspot Virus Isolates in Coat Protein Gene Transgenic Papaya and Classically Cross-Protected Papaya," Phytopathology 84:1359-66 (1994)). This resistant transgenic papaya was recently deregulated by USDA/APHIS. Deregulation of the transgenic papaya is timely, because Hawaii's papaya industry is being devastated by PRSV.

Remarkable progress has been made in developing virus resistant 15 transgenic plants despite a poor understanding of the mechanisms involved in the various forms of pathogen-derived resistance (Lomonossoff, G.P., "Pathogen-Derived Resistance to Plant Viruses," Ann. Rev. Phytopathol. 33:323-43 (1995)). Although most reports deal with the use of coat protein genes to confer resistance, a growing number of reports have shown that genes encoding viral replicase 20 (Golemboski et al., "Plants Transformed with a Tobacco Mosaic Virus Nonstructural Gene Sequence are Resistant to the Virus," Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 87:6311-15 (1990)), movement protein (Beck et al., "Disruption of Virus Movement Confers Broad-Spectrum Resistance Against Systemic Infection by Plant Viruses with a Triple Gene Block," Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 91:10310-14 25 (1994)), nuclear inclusion a-proteases ("NIa proteases") of potyviruses (Maiti et al., "Plants that Express a Potyvirus Proteinase Gene are Resistant to Virus Infection," Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 90:6110-14 (1993)), and other viral genes are also effective in conferring resistance. Furthermore, viral genes can be effective in the translatable and non-translatable sense forms, and, less frequently, 30 antisense forms (Baulcombe, D.C., "Mechanisms of Pathogen-Derived Resistance to Viruses in Transgenic Plants," Plant Cell 8:1833-44 (1996); Dougherty et al., "Transgenes and Gene Suppression: Telling us Something New?" Current

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Opinion in Cell Biology 7:399-05 (1995); Lomonossoff, G.P., "Pathogen-Derived Resistance to Plant Viruses," Ann. Rev. Phytopathol. 33:323-43 (1995)).

Notwithstanding the progress made in the field of plant resistance to viral pathogens, PRSV continues to exert its devastating effect upon papaya and other crops the world over. While the transgenic Hawaiian papaya is controlling the problem temporarily in Hawaii, that line unfortunately appears to susceptible to PRSV isolates with origins outside Hawaii. These observations suggest that transgenic papaya with coat protein genes specific to targeted PRSV isolates would need to be developed for transgenic papaya to effectively control PRSV worldwide. A more practical and comprehensive approach is needed to halt the devastation of PRSV. Such an approach would impart resistance to PRSV by utilizing genetic engineering techniques to provide greater and more reliable multi-pathogen resistance to crops to PRSV and other RNA-viral plant pathogens.

The present invention is directed to overcoming these and other deficiencies in the art.

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SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to isolated nucleic acid molecules encoding a viral coat protein of papaya ringspot virus and the protein encoded by those nucleic acid molecules.

Another aspect of the present invention pertains to nucleic acid constructs containing the isolated nucleic acid molecules of the present invention operably linked to 5' and 3' regulatory regions.

The present invention also relates to nucleic acid constructs containing a plurality of trait DNA molecules, wherein at least some of the plurality of trait DNA molecules have a length that is insufficient to independently impart that trait to plants transformed with that trait DNA molecule. However, the plurality of trait DNA molecules are capable of collectively imparting their traits to plants transformed with the DNA construct and thereby effecting the silencing of the DNA construct. The trait associated with the DNA molecules of this construct is disease resistance, and the trait DNA molecules are derived from a gene encoding a papaya ringspot virus coat protein in a papaya ringspot virus

strain selected from the group consisting of Thailand ("TH"), Keaau ("KE"), Kapoho ("KA"), Mexico ("ME"), Taiwan ("YK"), Brazil ("BR"), Jamaica ("JA"), Oahu ("OA"), and Panaewa ("PA").

The present invention also relates to a DNA construct containing a

fusion gene which includes a trait DNA molecule which has a length insufficient
to independently impart a desired trait to plants transformed with the trait
molecule, operatively coupled to a silencer molecule effective to achieve posttranscriptional gene silencing. The trait DNA molecule and the silencer molecule
collectively impart the trait to plants transformed with the construct. The DNA
molecules of this DNA construct are derived from a gene encoding a papaya
ringspot viral coat protein from a papaya ringspot virus strain selected from the
group consisting of TH, KE, KA, ME, YK, BR, JA, OA, and VE.

The present invention also relates to host cells, plant cells, transgenic plants, and transgenic plant seeds containing the nucleic acid constructs of the present invention.

The present invention also relates to a method of imparting resistance against papaya ringspot virus to papaya plants. This involves transforming a papaya plant with the constructs of the present invention.

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BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figures 1A-B show the cloning vectors used for the DNA constructs of the present invention. Figure 1A shows the expression cassette, pEPJ-YKT, containing the PRSV-CP variable regions of the YK, KE, and TH strains ligated into the pEPJ vector. Figure 1B shows the transformation vector pGA482G.

Figures 2A-B show the expression vectors used for cloning and subcloning the silencer-PRSV-CP construct. Figure 2A shows the pNP-YKT vector, containing the silencer DNA molecule (M1/2NP) and the PRSV-CP variable regions of PRSV strains YK, KE, and TH. Figure 2B shows the pGFP-YKT vector, containing the silencer molecule GFP ligated to the PRSV-CP variable regions of PRSV strains YK, KE, and TH PRSV strains.

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Figures 3A-G show various *PRSV-CP* DNA molecules ligated to the silencer molecule (*M 1/2 NP*) in an expression vector. Figure 3A shows clone pNP-K; Figure 3B shows clone pNP-KK; Figure 3C shows clone pNP-EE; Figure 3D shows clone pNP-KKTC; Figure 3E shows clone pNP-KKTV; Figure 3F shows clone pNP-EETC, and Figure 3G shows clone pNP-EETV.

Figure 4A shows the a full-length (1 Kb) KE-CP DNA molecule encoding a translatable RNA for PRSV-CP ligated into the expression vector pEPJ. Figure 4B shows a full-length (1 Kb) KE-CP DNA molecule encoding a non-translatable RNA for PRSV-CP ligated into the expression vector pEPJ.

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Figure 5 shows a 855 bp Ncol/BamHI Mexico PRSV-CP DNA molecule ligated into the expression vector pEPJ.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

The present invention relates to nucleic acids which encode for a viral coat protein ("CP") of papaya ringspot virus ("PRSV").

One suitable form of the nucleic acid of the present invention is the *CP* gene isolated from the PRSV strain Kapoho ("KA"), which has a nucleic acid sequence corresponding to SEQ ID NO: 1 as follows:

tccaagaatg aagctgtgga tgctggtttg aatgaaaaac tcaaagagaa agaaagacag 60
aaagaaaaag aaaaagaaaa acaaaaagaa aaaggaaaag acgatgctag tgacgaaaat 120
gatgtgtcaa ctagcacaaa aactggagag agagatagag atgtcaatgt tgggaccagt 180
ggaactttcg ctgttccgag aattaaatca tttactgata agttgattct accaagaatt 240

aagggaaaga etgteettaa tetaagteat ettetteagt ataateegea acaaattgae 300 atttetaaca etegtgeeac teagteacaa tetgagaagt ggtatgaggg agtgagggat 360 gattatggee teaatgataa tgaaatgeaa getatgetaa atggtetgat ggtettggtgt 420

atcgagaatg gtacatctcc agacatatct ggtgtatggg ttatgatgga tggggaaacc 480

caagttgatt atccaaccaa gcctttaatt gagcatgata ctccgtcatt taggcaaatt 540 atggctcact ttagtaacgc ggcagaagca tacattgcga agagaaatgc tactgagagg 600

tacatgccgc ggtacggaat caagagaaat ttgactgaca ttagcctcgc tagatatgct 660 ttcgacttct atgaggtgaa ttcgaaaaca cctgataggg ctcgcgaagc ccacatgcag 720

atgaaggctg cagcgctgcg aaacactagt cgcagaatgt ttggtatgga cggcagtgtt 780 agtaacaagg aagaaaacac ggagagacac acagtggaag atgtcgatag agacatgcac 840

teteteetgg gtatgegeaa etaa 864

The present invention also relates to the PRSV-KA-CP, encoded by the nucleotide corresponding to SEQ ID NO: 1, where the protein encoded has an amino acid sequence corresponding to SEQ ID NO: 2, as follows:

5	Ser	Lys	Asn	Glu	Ala	Val	Asp	Ala	Gly	Leu	Asn	Glu	Lys	Leu	Lys	Glu
	1				5					10					15	
	Lys	Glu	Arg	Gln	Lys	Glu	Lys	Glu	Lys	Glu	Lys	Gln	Lys	Glu	Lys	Gly
				20					25					30		
10	_	_	_		_	_		_	_		.		-		_	_
	Lys	Asp	Asp 35	Ala	Ser	qaA	GIu	Asn 40	Asp	Val	ser	Tnr	ser 45	Tnr	rys	Thr
	Gly	Glu	Arg	qaA	Arg	Asp	Val	Asn	Val	Gly	Thr	Ser	Gly	Thr	Phe	Ala
15		50					55					60				•
	Val	Pro	Arg	Ile	Lvs	Ser	Phe	Thr	asa	Lvs	Leu	Ile	Leu	Pro	Arq	Ile
	65		5		-2-	70			<u>-</u> -		75				3	80
20	Lys	Gly	Lys	Thr		Leu	Asn	Leu	Ser		Leu	Leu	Gln	Tyr		Pro
					85					90					95	
	Gln	Gln	Ile	Asp	Ile	Ser	Asn	Thr	Arg	Ala	Thr	Gln	Ser	Gln	Phe	Glu
				100					105					110		
25				~ 1	~1	••- 1	•	•	3		6 7	-	•	-		~ 1
	Lys	Trp	Tyr 115	Glu	GTÅ	Val	Arg	120	Авр	туг	GIÀ	Leu	125	Asp	Asn	GIU
	Met	Gln	Val	Met	Leu	Asn	Gly	Leu	Met	Val	Trp	Cys	Ile	Glu	Asn	Gly
30		130					135					140				
	Thr	Ser	Pro	Asp	Tle	Ser	Glv	Val	Тто	Val	Met.	Met.	Asp	Glv	Glu	Thr
	145					150	U _7				155					160
35	Gln	Val	Asp	Tyr		Thr	Lys	Pro	Leu		Glu	His	Asp	Thr		Ser
					165					170					175	

Phe Arg Gln Ile Met Ala His Phe Ser Asn Ala Ala Glu Ala Tyr Ile

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Ala	Lys	Arg	Asn	Ala	Thr	Glu	Arg	Tyr	Met	Pro	Arg	Tyr	Gly	Ile	Lys
		195					200					205			

5 Arg Asn Leu Thr Asp Ile Ser Leu Ala Arg Tyr Ala Phe Asp Phe Tyr 220 210 215

Glu Val Asn Ser Lys Thr Pro Asp Arg Ala Arg Glu Ala His Met Gln 235 240 230

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Met Lys Ala Ala Leu Arg Asn Thr Ser Arg Arg Met Phe Gly Met 250 · 255 245

Asp Gly Ser Val Ser Asn Lys Glu Glu Asn Thr Glu Arg His Thr Val 265 270 15 260

Glu Asp Val Asp Arg Asp Met His Ser Leu Leu Gly Met Arg Asn 275 280 285

The present invention also relates to an isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding a CP gene isolated from the Thailand ("TH") strain of PRSV, which has a nucleic acid sequence corresponding to SEQ ID NO: 3 as follows:

tccaaqaatq aaqctgtgga tgctggtctt aatgagaagt tcaaagataa agaaaaacag 60 25 aaaqaaqaaa aagataaaca aaaaggtaaa gaaaataatg aagctagtga cggaaatgat 120 gtgtcaacta gcacaaaaac tggagagaga gatagagatg tcaatgccgg aactagtggt 180 actttcactg ttccgagaat aaaattattt accgacaaga tgattttacc aagaattaag 240 ggaaaaactg tccttagttt aaatcatctt cttcagtata atccgcaaca aatagacatc 300 tcaaacactc gtgccactca atctcaattc gaaaagtggt atgagggagt gaggaatgat 360 tacqqtctta atgataacga aatgcaagtg atgttaaatg gtttgatggt ttggtgcatc 420 30 qaaaatggaa catccccaga catatctggt gtctgggtga tgatggatgg ggaaacccaa 480 gtcgattatc ccatcaagcc tttgatcgaa catgcaactc cttcgttcag gcaaatcatg 540 gctcacttca gtaacgcggc agaggcatac atcgcaaaga ggaatgctac tgagaggtac 600 atgccgcggt atggaatcaa gaggaatctg actgacatta gtctcgctag atatgctttc 660 35 qacttctatg aggtgaactc aaaaacacct gatagggctc gtgaagctca tatgcagatg 720 aaggotgcag cgctgcgcaa cactgatcgc agaatgtttg gaatggacgg cagtgtcagt 780 aacaaggaag aaaacacgga gagacacaca gtggaagatg tcaacagaga catgcactct 840 861 ctcctaggta tgcgcaattg a

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The present invention also relates to the viral coat protein of the TH strain of PRSV, encoded for by SEQ ID NO: 3, which corresponds to amino acid SEQ ID NO: 4, as follows:

5	ser 1	Lys	Asn	Glu	Ala 5	Val	Asp	Ala	Gly	Leu 10	Asn	Glu	Lys	Phe	Lys 15	Asp
	Lys	Glu	Lys	Gln 20	Lys	Glu	Glu	Lys	Asp 25	Lys	Gln	Lys	Gly	Lys 30	Glu	Asn
10	Asn	Glu			Asp	Gly	Asn		Val	Ser	Thr	Ser	Thr 45	Lys	Thr	Gly
	Glu	Arg	35 Asp	Arg	Asp	Val	Asn	40 Ala	Gly	Thr	Ser	Gly	Thr	Phe	Thr	Val
15	Pose	50	Tlo	Tue	Len	Pho	55 ‴b∽	Aco	Tare	Wet	Tle	60	Pro	Ara	Tie	Tare
	65	Arg	116	гув	rea	70	1111	Asp	пув	Mec	75	nea		мy	116	80
20	Gly	Lys	Thr	Val	Leu 85	Ser	Leu	Asn	His	Leu 90	Leu	Gln	Tyr	Asn	Pro 95	Gln
	Gln	Ile	Asp	Ile 100	Ser	Asn	Thr	Arg	Ala 105	Thr	Gln	Ser	Gln	Phe	Glu	Lys
25	Trp	Tyr	Glu 115	Gly	Val	Arg	Asn	Asp 120	Tyr	Gly	Leu	Asn	Asp 125	Asn	Glu	Met
••	Gln			Leu	Asn	Gly		Met	Val	_. Trp	Сув		Glu	Asn	Gly	Thr
30	Ser	130 Pro	Asp	Ile	Ser	Gly	135 Val	Trp	Val	Met	Met	140 Asp	Gly	Glu	Thr	Glr
	145					150					155					160
35	Val	Asp	Tyr	Pro	Ile 165	Lys	Pro	Leu	Ile	Glu 170	His	Ala	Thr	Pro	Ser 175	Phe

Arg Gln Ile Met Ala His Phe Ser Asn Ala Ala Glu Ala Tyr Ile Ala

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Lys Arg Asn Ala Thr Glu Arg Tyr Met Pro Arg Tyr Gly Ile Lys Arg 195 200 205

Asn Leu Thr Asp Ile Ser Leu Ala Arg Tyr Ala Phe Asp Phe Tyr Glu

5 210 215 220

Val Asn Ser Lys Thr Pro Asp Arg Ala Arg Glu Ala His Met Gln Met 225 230 235 240

10 Lys Ala Ala Ala Leu Arg Asn Thr Asp Arg Arg Met Phe Gly Met Asp 245 250 255

Gly Ser Val Ser Asn Lys Glu Glu Asn Thr Glu Arg His Thr Val Glu 260 265 270

280

Asp Val Asn Arg Asp Met His Ser Leu Leu Gly Met Arg Asn

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Also suitable as a nucleic acid for use in the present invention is
the nucleic acid which encodes a *CP* gene isolated from the Keaau ("KE") strain
of PRSV. PRSV-KE contains two "cut-sites", i.e., two potential cleavage sites for
a mature coat protein. The first cleavage site sequence in the KE strain of PRSV,
identified herein as *KE-CP1*, corresponds to SEQ ID NO: 5 (*KECP1*) as follows:

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25 tcaaggagca ctgatgatta tcaacttgtt tggagtgaca atacacatgt gtttcatcag 60 tccaagaatg aagctgtgga tgctggtttg aatgaaaaac tcaaagagaa agaaaaacag 120 aaagaaaaag aaaaagaaaa acaaaaagaa aaaggaagag acgatgctag tgacgaaaat 180 gatgtgtcaa ctagcacaaa aactggagag agagatagag atgtcaatgt tgggaccagt 240 ggaactttcg ctgttccgag aattaaatca tttactgata agttgattct accaagaatt 300 30 aagggaaaga ctgtccttaa tttaagtcat cttcttcagt ataatccgca acaaattgac 360 atttctaaca ctcgtgccac tcagtcacaa tttgagaagt ggtatgaggg agtgagggat 420 gattatggcc ttaatgataa tgaaatgcaa gttatgctaa atggtttgat ggtttggtgt 480 ategagaatg gtacatetee agacatatet ggtgtatggg ttatgatgga tgggggaaace 540 caagttgatt atccaaccaa gcctttaatt gagcatgcta ctccgtcatt taggcaaatt 600 35 atggeteact ttagtaacge ggcagaagca tacattgega agagaaatge tactgagagg 660 tacatgccgc ggtacggaat caagagaaat ttgactgacg ttagcctcgc tagatatgct 720 ttcgacttct atgaggtgaa ttcgaaaaca cctgataggg ctcgcgaagc ccacatgcag 780 atgaaggetg cagegetgeg aaacactagt egcagaatgt ttggtatgga eggeagtgtt 840 agtaacaagg aagaaaacac ggagagacac acagtggaag atgtcaatag agacatgcac 900 40 tctctcctgg gcatgcgcaa c 921

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A second nucleotide sequence encoding a PRSV-KE coat protein sequence, which starts from the second KE-CP cleavage site, is identified as KE-CP2 herein, and corresponds to SEQ ID NO: 6, as follows:

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tccaagaatg aagctgtgga tgctggtttg aatgaaaaac tcaaagagaa agaaaaacag 60
aaagaaaaag aaaaagaaaa acaaaaagaa aaaggaaaag acgatgctag tgacgaaaat 120
gatgtgtcaa ctagcacaaa aactggagag agagatagag atgtcaatgt tgggaccagt 180
ggaactttcg ctgttccgag aattaaatca tttactgata agttgattct accaagaatt 240
aagggaaaga ctgtccttaa tttaagtcat cttcttcagt ataatccgca acaaattgac 300
atttctaaca ctcgtgccac tcagtcacaa tttgagaagt ggtatgaggg agtgagggat 360
gattatggcc ttaatgataa tgaaatgcaa gttatgctaa atggtttgat ggtttggtgt 420
atcgagaatg gtacatctcc agacatatct ggtgtatggg ttatgatgga tggggaaacc 480
caagttgatt atccaaccaa gcctttaatt gagcatgcta ctccgtcatt taggcaaatt 540
atggctcact ttagtaacgc ggcagaagca tacattgcga agagaaatgc tactgagagg 600
tacatgccgc ggtacggaat caagagaaat ttgactgacg ttagcctcgc tagatatgct 660
ttcgacttct atgaggtgaa ttcgaaaaca cctgataggg ctcgcgaagc ccacatgcag 720
atgaaggctg cagcgctgcg aaacactagt cgcagaatgt ttggtatgga cggcagtgtt 780
agtaacaagg aagaaaacac ggagagacac acagtggaag atgtcaatag agacatgcac 840
tctctcctgg gcatgcgcaa ctaa

SEQ ID NOS: 5 and 6 contain, respectively, the N terminus and C terminus cleavage sites for PRSV-KE coat protein. Both cleavage sites result in proteins that appear to be functional in viral replication in the plant. SEQ ID NO: 5 encodes the first coat protein cleavage site product, CP1, of the KE strain of PRSV. KE-CP1 has an amino acid sequence corresponding to SEQ ID NO: 7, as follows:

Ser Arg Ser Thr Asp Asp Tyr Gln Leu Val Trp Ser Asp Asn Thr His 30 1 5 10 15

Val Phe His Gln Ser Lys Asn Glu Ala Val Asp Ala Gly Leu Asn Glu 20 25 30

Lys Leu Lys Glu Lys Glu Lys Glu Lys Glu Lys Glu Lys Glu Lys Glu
 40

Lys Glu Lys Gly Arg Asp Asp Ala Ser Asp Glu Asn Asp Val Ser Thr
50 55 60

- 12 -

	Ser	Thr	Lys	Thr	Gly	Glu	Arg	Asp	Arg	Asp	Val	Asn	Val	Gly	Thr	Ser
	65					70			•		75					80
5	Glv	Thr	Phe	Ala	Val	Pro	Arq	Ile	Lvs	Ser	Phe	Thr	qaA	Lys	Leu	Ile
•	 1	•			85		3			90					95	
					03					,,,					,,	
	_			-1 -	•	43	•	60 1a - a	•• •	T	3	T	G	774 -	T	7
	Leu	PIO	Arg		rås	GIĀ	гåв	THE		Leu	ABII	rea	Ser	His	ren	Leu
				100					105					110		
10																
	Gln	Tyr	Asn	Pro	Gln	Gln	Ile	Asp	Ile	Ser	Asn	Thr	Arg	Ala	Thr	Gln
			115					120					125			
	Ser	Gln	Phe	Glu	Lys	Trp	Tyr	Glu	Gly	Val	Arg	Asp	Asp	Tyr	Gly	Leu
15		130					135					140				
											•					
	Asn	Asp	Asn	Glu	Met	Gln	Val	Met	Leu	Asn	Gly	Leu	Met	Val	Trp	Сув
	145	-				150					155					160
												·				
20	Tle	Glu	Δan	Glv	Thr	Ser	Pro	Agn	Tle	Ser	Glv	٧al	Tro	Val	Met	Met
20	110	014	*****	U _y	165	-				170	4-7				175	
					105					1,0					-/-	
	_	~ 1	~ 1	55 1	~ 1	••- ٦	•		B	·m	7	D	T	- 1-	~ 3	TT
	Asp	GIA	GIU		GIN	vaı	Asp	TYL		THE	гув	PIO	Leu	Ile	GIU	HIR
				180					185					190		
25																
	Ala	Thr	Pro	Ser	Phe	Arg	Gln	Ile	Met	Ala	His	Phe	Ser	Asn	Ala	Ala
			195					200					205			
	Glu	Ala	Tyr	Ile	Ala	Lys	Arg	Asn	Ala	Thr	Glu	Arg	Tyr	Met	Pro	Arg
30		210					215					220				
	Tyr	Gly	Ile	Lys	Arg	Asn	Leu	Thr	Asp	Val	Ser	Leu	Ala	Arg	Tyr	Ala
	225	_		_		230					235					240
35	Dhe	Asn	Phe	Tur	Glu	Va 1	Agn	Ser	Lvg	Thr	Pro	Agn	Ara	Ala	Arσ	G] 11
<i>33</i>	FIIC	-mp		-1-		*4.	4 1041		-10	250		٠	9		255	
					245					49 0					دره	
	_					_				_		_		_	_	_
	Ala	His	Met		Met	Lys	Ala	Ala		Leu	Arg	Asn	Thr	Ser	Arg	Arg
				260					265					270		

- 13 -

	Met	Phe	Gly	Met	Asp	Gly	Ser	Val	Ser	Asn	Lys	Glu	Glu	Asn	Thr	Glu	
			275					280					285				
5	Arg	His 290	Thr	Val	Glu	Asp	Val 295	Asn	Arg	Asp	Met	His	Ser	Leu	Leu	Gly	
	Met 305	Arg	Asn														
10		-														CP2, of	
						E-CP	'2 has	s an a	ımın	o aci	d seq	uenc	e cor	respo	ndın	g to SI	€Q
	ID 1	4O: 8	3, as	follo	ws:												
	Ser	Lys	Asn	Glu	Ala	Val	Asp	Ala	Gly	Leu	Asn	Glu	Lys	Leu	Lys	Glu	
15	1				5					10					15		
	Lys	Glu	Lys		Lys	Glu	Lys	Glu	Lys 25	Glu	Lys	Gln	Lys	Glu 30	Lys	Gly	
				20					25				•	30			
20	Lys	Asp	Asp	Ala	Ser	Asp	Glu	Asn	Asp	Val	Ser	Thr	Ser	Thr	Lys	Thr	
			35					40					45			•	
•		_														_ =	
	Gly	Glu 50	Arg	Asp	Arg	Asp	Va1 55	Asn	Val	GIA	Thr	Ser 60	GTÅ	Thr	Phe	Ala	
25		50					J J										
~	Val	Pro	Arg	Ile	Lys	Ser	Phe	Thr	Asp	Lys	Leu	Ile	Leu	Pro	Arg	Ile	
	65					70					75					80	
		_		_	_				_		_	_		_	_		
30	Lys	Gly	Lys	Thr		Leu	Asn	Leu	Ser	His	Leu	Leu	Gln	Tyr	Asn 95	Pro	
30					85					90					93		
	Gln	Gln	Ile	Asp	Ile	Ser	Asn	Thr	Arg	Ala	Thr	Gln	Ser	Gln	Phe	Glu	
				100					105					110			
35	Lys	Trp	_	Glu	Gly	Val	Arg	_	Asp	Tyr	Gly	Leu		Asp	Asn	Glu	
			115					120					125				

Met Gln Val Met Leu Asn Gly Leu Met Val Trp Cys Ile Glu Asn Gly

140

135

- 14 -

	Thr	Ser	Pro	Asp	Ile	Ser	Gly	Val	Trp	Val	Met	Met	qaA	Gly	Glu	Thr	
	145					150					155					160	
5	Gln	Val	Asp	Tvr	Pro	Thr	Lvs	Pro	Leu	Ile	Glu	His	Ala	Thr	Pro	Ser	
•	0			-1-	165					170					175		
					103					1,0					2.3		
		_					•	•	_	•			63		.	- 1 -	
	Phe	Arg	GIn		Met	АТА	нів	Pne		Asn	Ala	Ala	GIU	Ala	TYE	116	
				180					185					190			
10																	
	Ala	Lys	Arg	Asn	Ala	Thr	Glu	Arg	Tyr	Met	Pro	Arg	Tyr	Gly	Ile	Lys	
			195					200					205				
	Arg	Asn	Leu	Thr	Asp	Val	Ser	Leu	Ala	Arg	Tyr	Ala	Phe	Asp	Phe	Tyr	
15		210					215					220					
					٠												
	Glu	Val	Asn	Ser	Lvs	Thr	Pro	Asp	Ara	Ala	Arq	Glu	Ala	His	Met	Gln	
	225				-2-	230			5		235					240	
20	Wot	Tara		772	בות	Leu	7	Zan	Thr.	Cor	Δτα	Ara	Met	Phe	Gly	Mot	
20	Met	цуз	AIG	AIG		Deu	мy	ASII			~~g	g	MCC	2110	255	MCC	
					245				•	250					235		
			_		_	_	_					~ 3	•			7	
	Asp	Gly	Ser		ser	Asn	Lys	GIU		Asn	Thr	GIU	Arg	His	Thr	Val	
				260					265					270			
25																	
	Glu	Asp	Val	Asn	Arg	Asp	Met	His	Ser	Leu	Leu	Gly	Met	Arg	Asn.		
			275					280					285				
				Δn	other	nucl	eic a	ત્નંત લ	iitah	le in	the r	1 1 2221	nt inv	ventiv	nn is	the <i>CP</i>	•
			_								_						
30	gene	isol	ated	from	the 7	Taiw	an ("	YK") stra	in of	PRS	SV, c	orres	pond	ing t	o SEQ	ID
	NO:	9, as	s foll	ows:													
	tcta	aaaa	tg a	agcto	tgga	tac	cggt	ctg a	atga	gaag	c tc	aaaga	aaaa	agaa	aagc	ag 60	
	aaag	aaaa	ag a	aaaa	jataa	aca	acaa	gat	aaga	caat	g at	ggag	ctag	tgac	ggaa	ac 120	
35	gatg	tgtc	aa c	tagca	caaa	aac	tgga	gag a	ıgaga	tagg	g at	gtcaa	atgc	cgga	acta	gt 180	
	ggaa	cctt	ca c	tgtto	cgag	gat	aaagi	tca t	ttac	tgat	a ag	atgai	ctt	acca	agaat	t 240	
	aagg	gaaa	aa c	tgtc	ttaa	ttt	aaat	cat c	ttct	tcag	t at	aatc	gaa	acaa	gttga	ac 300	
	atct	caaa	ca c	teges	jccac	tca	atct	caa t	ttga	gaag	t gg	tatga	ıggg	agtg	agaa	at 360	
	gatt	atgg	cc ti	taato	_j ataa	cga	aatg	caa g	rtaat	gtta	a at	ggtti	gat	ggtt	tggt	gt 420	

atcgaaaatg gtacatctcc agatatatct ggtgtctggg ttatgatgga tgggggaaacc 480

- 15 -

caagtcgatt atcccattaa acctttgatt gaacacgcaa ctccttcatt taggcaaatc 540 atggctcact tcagtaacgc ggcagaggca tacatcgcga agaggaatgc aactgagaag 600 tacatgccgc ggtatggaat caagagaaat ttgactgaca ttagtctcgc tagatatgct 660 ttcgatttct atgaggtgaa ttcgaaaaca cctgataggg ctcgtgaagc tcatatgcag 720 atgaaggctg cagcgctacg caatactaat cgcaaaatgt ttggaatgga cggcagtgtc 780 agtaacaagg aagaaaacac ggagagacac acagtggaag atgtcaacag agacatgcac 840 tctctcctgg gtatgcgcaa ttga

SEQ ID NO: 9 encodes the CP of the YK strain of PRSV which has an amino acid sequence corresponding to SEQ ID NO: 10, as follows:

Ser Lys Asn Glu Ala Val Asp Thr Gly Leu Asn Glu Lys Leu Lys Glu

1 5 10 15

Lys Glu Lys Glu Lys Glu Lys Glu Lys Asp Lys Gln Gln Asp Lys Asp

20
25
30

Asn Asp Gly Ala Ser Asp Gly Asn Asp Val Ser Thr Ser Thr Lys Thr
35 40 45

20

Gly Glu Arg Asp Arg Asp Val Asn Ala Gly Thr Ser Gly Thr Phe Thr
50 55 60

Val Pro Arg Ile Lys Ser Phe Thr Asp Lys Met Ile Leu Pro Arg Ile
25 65 70 75 80

Lys Gly Lys Thr Val Leu Asn Leu Asn His Leu Leu Gln Tyr Asn Pro

30 Lys Gln Val Asp Ile Ser Asn Thr Arg Ala Thr Gln Ser Gln Phe Glu
100 105 110

Lys Trp Tyr Glu Gly Val Arg Asn Asp Tyr Gly Leu Asn Asp Asn Glu 115 120 125

Met Gln Val Met Leu Asn Gly Leu Met Val Trp Cys Ile Glu Asn Gly
130 135 140

Thr Ser Pro Asp Ile Ser Gly Val Trp Val Met Met Asp Gly Glu Thr
40 145 150 155 160

- 16 -

	Gln	Val	Asp	Tyr		Ile	Lys	Pro	Leu		Glu	His	Ala	Thr		Ser	
					165					170					175		
5	Phe	Arq	Gln	Ile	Met	Ala	His	Phe	Ser	Asn	Ala	Ala	Glu	Ala	Tyr	Ile	
		- 3		180					185					190	-		
	Ala	Lys	Arg	Asn	Ala	Thr	Glu	Lys	Tyr	Met	Pro	Arg	Tyr	Gly	Ile	Lys	
			195					200					205				•
10																	
	Arg	Asn	Leu	Thr	Asp	Ile	Ser	Leu	Ala	Arg	Tyr	Ala	Phe	Asp	Phe	Tyr	
		210					215					220					
	Glu	Val	Asn	Ser	Lys		Pro	Asp	Arg	Ala		Glu	Ala	His	Met		
15	225					230					235					240	
		_					•	•	M ara	3	3	T	Wat	Db.a	~ 1	Vo.	
	Met	Lys	Ala	Ala		Leu	Arg	Asn	Tnr		Arg	гув	met	Phe	255	Met	
					245			•		250					233		
20 .) en	Glv	Ser	Va 1	Ser	Δan	Twa	Glu	Glu	Asn	Thr	Glu	Ara	His	Thr	Val	
20	мър	GIŞ	Ser	260	Jei	non	Lyb	O.Lu	265	no				270		142	
	Glu	Asp	Val	Asn	Arg	Asp	Met	His	Ser	Leu	Leu	Gly	Met	Arg	Asn		
		-	275		_	_		280					285				
25																	
				Δna	ather	nucl	eic a	cid s	nitah	le in	the r	resei	nt inv	ventio	on is	the C	P
		- :1									_						
	•					viexi	.00 (IVIE) Sur	1111 O .	i PK	5 V , C	SOIL C	spond	ınığ ı	to SE(עו ע
	NO:	11,	as fo	llows	S:												
30	tcca	agaa	tg a	agcto	gtgga	tgo	tggt	ttg a	aatga	aaaa	c tc	aaag	aaaa	agaa	aaac	ag 60	
	aaag	jaaaa	ag a	aaaa	caaaa	aga	aaaa	gaa a	aaaga	caat	g ct	agtg	acgg	aaat	gatg	tg 12	0
	-					_										ct 18	
																ga 24	
35	_	_														ct 30 at 36	
<i>33</i>																ag 42	
																tt 48	

gactatccaa tcaagcctct aattgagcat gctaccccgt catttaggca gattatggct 540 cactttagta acgcggcaga agcatatatt gcaaagagaa atgccactga gaggtacatg 600

ccgcggtatg gaatcaagag aaatttgact gacattagcc tcgctaggta cgctttcgat 660

- 17 -

	ttct	atga	gg t	taatt	cgaa	aac	acct	gat a	raaac	tcgc	gaag	gctca	ıcat	gcag	atgaa	ia 720	
	gctg	cage	gc t	gcgaa	acac	: tag	tege	aga a	itgtt	tggta	a tgg	gcgg	gcag	tgtt	agtaa	C 780	
	aagg	raaga	aa a	cacg	jaaag	aca	caca	gtg g	gaaga	tgtc	a ata	agaga	cat	gcac	tctct	C 840	
	ctgg	gtat	gc g	caac												855	
5																	
,	_									_	_						
	SEC	OID	NO:	ll en	icode	s the	CP (of the	e ME	strai	n of	PRS	V wi	iich l	nas ai	n amino)
	acid	sequ	ience	corr	espo	nding	g to S	SEQ I	ID N	O: 12	2, as	follo	ws:				
		-			-												
	_	_	_				_			_	_		_	_	_		
	Ser	Lys	Asn	Glu	Ala	Val	Asp	Ala	Gly	Leu	Asn	Glu	Lys	Leu	Lys	Glu	
10	1				5					10					15		
	Lys	Glu	Lys	Gln	Lys	Glu	Lys	Glu	Lys	Gln	Lys	Glu	Lys	Glu	Lys	Asp	
				20					25					30			
15	Asn	Ala	Ser	Asp	Glv	Asn	Asp	Val	Ser	Thr	Ser	Thr	Lvs	Thr	Gly	Glu	
			35		2			40					45		•		
			-														
					-		*** 1	~1	67 00	g	a 1	mh	Dh a	enter en	**- 1	Desa	
	гув	-	Arg	Asp	vaı	ASII		GIY	TILL	ser	GIY		Pne	Thr	Val	PIO	
		50					55					60					
20													•				
	Arg	Ile	Lys	Ser	Phe	Thr	Asp	Lys	Met	Ile	Leu	Pro	Arg	Ile	Lys	Gly	
	65					70					75					80	
	Lys	Thr	Val	Leu	Asn	Leu	Asn	His	Leu	Leu	Gln	Tyr	Asn	Pro	Gln	Gln	
25					85					90					95		
	Tle	Asn	Tle	Ser	Asn	Thr	Ara	Ala	Thr	Gln	Ser	Gln	Phe	Glu	Lvs	Tro	
	110	p			2.01.		,		105		501			110	-,-		
				100					103					110			
20							_	_		_	_		_	•			
30	Tyr	Glu	Gly	Val	Arg	Asn	Asp	Tyr	Gly	Leu	Asn	Asp	Asn	Glu	Met	Gln	
			115					120					125				
	Val	Met	Leu	Asn	Gly	Leu	Met	Val	Trp	Cys	Ile	Glu	Asn	Gly	Thr	Ser	
		130					135					140					
35																	
	Pro	Asp	Ile	Ser	Glv	Val	Tro	Val	Met	Met	Aso	Glv	Glu	Ile	Gln	Val	
	- -				4												

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	N cm	Тъгъ	D×o	T1.0	T	Dwo	Tou	Tla	Cl.,	uic	בומ	Thr	Pro	Cor	Dhe	Ara
	Asp	ıyı	PIO	116	165	PIO	Leu	116	GIU	170	AIG	1111	PIO	Ser	175	<i></i> .9
5	Gln	Ile	Met	Ala 180	His	Phe	Ser	Asn	Ala 185	Ala	Glu	Ala	Tyr	Ile 190	Ala	Lys
	Arg	Asn	Ala 195	Thr	Glu	Arg	Tyr	Met 200	Pro	Arg	Tyr	Gly	Ile 205	Lys	Arg	Asn
10	Leu	Thr 210	Asp	Ile	Ser	Leu	Ala 215	Arg	Tyr	Ala	Phe	Asp 220	Phe	Tyr	Glu	Val
15	Asn 225	Ser	Lys	Thr	Pro	Asp 230	Arg	Ala	Arg	Glu	Ala 235	His	Met	Gln	Met	Lys 240
10	Ala	Ala	Ala	Leu	Arg 245	Asn	Thr	Ser	Arg	Arg 250	Met	Phe	Gly	Met	Gly 255	Gly
20	Ser	Val	Ser	Asn 260	Lys	Glu	Glu	Asn	Thr 265	Glu	Arg	His	Thr	Val 270	Glu	Asp
	Val	Asn	Arg 275	Asp	Met	His	Ser	Leu 280	Leu	Gly	Met	Arg	Asn 285			
25				An	other	nucl	eic a	cid s	uitab	le in	the p	rese	nt inv	entic	on is	the (

Another nucleic acid suitable in the present invention is the *CP* gene isolated from the Brazil ("BR") strain of PRSV, corresponding to SEQ ID NO: 13, as follows:

tccaaaaatg aagctgtgga tgctggtttg aatgaaaagc gtaaagaaca agagaaacaa 60
gaagaaaaag aagaaaaaca aaaaaagaaa gaaaaagacg atgctagtta cggaaacgat 120
gtgtcaacta gcacaagaac tggagagaga gacagagatg tcaatgttgg gaccagtgga 180
actttcactg ttccgagaac aaaatcattt actgataaga tgattttacc tagaattaag 240
ggaaaaactg tccttaattt aaatcatctg attcagtata atccgcaaca aattgacatt 300
tctaacactc gtgctactca atcacaattt gagaagtggt acgagggagt gaggaatgat 360
35 tatggcctta atgataatga gatgcaaata gtgctaaatg gtttgatggt ttggtgtatc 420
gaaaacggta catctccaga catatctggt gtctgggtta tgatggatgg ggaaacccag 480
gttgactatc caatcaagcc tttaattgag catgctactc cgtcgtttag gcaaattatg 540
gctcattca gtaacgcggc agaagcatac attacaaaga gaaatgctac tgagaggtac 600
atgccgcggt atgggatcaa gagaaatttg actgacatta gtcttgctag atatgctttc 660
gatttctatg aggtgaattc gaaaacacct gatagggctc gcgaagctca catgcagatg 720

- 19 -

aaagctgcag cgctgcgaaa cactaatcgc agaatgtttg gtatggacgg cagtgttagt 780 aacaaggaag aaaacacgga gagacacaca gtggaagatg tcaatagaga catgcactct 840 ctcctgggta tgcgcaactg a 861

5 SEQ ID NO: 13 encodes the CP of the BR strain of PRSV which has an amino acid sequence corresponding to SEQ ID NO: 14, as follows:

Ser Lys Asn Glu Ala Val Asp Ala Gly Leu Asn Glu Lys Arg Lys Glu

1 5 10 15

10

Gln Glu Lys Gln Glu Glu Lys Glu Lys Gln Lys Lys Lys Glu Lys
20 . 25 . 30

Asp Asp Ala Ser Tyr Gly Asn Asp Val Ser Thr Ser Thr Arg Thr Gly
15 40 45

Glu Arg Asp Arg Asp Val Asn Val Gly Thr Ser Gly Thr Phe Thr Val
50 55 60

20 Pro Arg Thr, Lys Ser Phe Thr Asp Lys Met Ile Leu Pro Arg Ile Lys
65 70 75 80

Gly Lys Thr Val Leu Asn Leu Asn His Leu Ile Gln Tyr Asn Pro Gln 85 90 95

25

Gln Ile Asp Ile Ser Asn Thr Arg Ala Thr Gln Ser Gln Phe Glu Lys
100 105 110

Trp Tyr Glu Gly Val Arg Asn Asp Tyr Gly Leu Asn Asp Asn Glu Met
30 115 120 125

Gln Ile Val Leu Asn Gly Leu Met Val Trp Cys Ile Glu Asn Gly Thr 130 135 140

35 Ser Pro Asp Ile Ser Gly Val Trp Val Met Met Asp Gly Glu Thr Gln 145 150 155 160

Val Asp Tyr Pro Ile Lys Pro Leu Ile Glu His Ala Thr Pro Ser Phe 165 170 175

- 20 -

	Arg	Gln	Ile	Met	Ala	His	Phe	Ser	Asn	Ala	Ala	Glu	Ala	Tyr	Ile	Thr
				180					185					190		
	Lys	Arg	Asn	Ala	Thr	Glu	Arg	Tyr	Met	Pro	Arg	Tyr	Gly	Ile	Lys	Arg
5			195					200					205			
	Asn	Leu	Thr	qaA	Ile	Ser	Leu	Ala	Arg	Tyr	Ala	Phe	Asp	Phe	Tyr	Glu
		210					215					220				
10	Val	Asn	Ser	Lys	Thr	Pro	Asp	Arg	Ala	Arg	Glu	Ala	His	Met	Gln	Met
	225					230					235					240
	Lys	Ala	Ala	Ala	Leu	Arg	Asn	Thr	Asn	Arg	Arg	Met	Phe	Gly	Met	Asp
15					245	•				250					255	
	Gly	Ser	Val	Ser	Asn	Lys	Glu	Glu	Asn	Thr	Glu	Arg	His	Thr	Val	Glu
				260					265					270		
	Asp	Val	Asn	Arg	Asp	Met	His	Ser	Leu	Leu	Gly	Met	Arg	Asn		

20

275

Another nucleic acid suitable in the present invention is a *CP* gene isolated from the Jamaica ("JA") strain of PRSV, corresponding to SEQ ID NO: 15, as follows:

280

285

25 tctaaaaatg aagctgtgga tgctggttta aatgaaaagc tcaaagaaaa agaaaaacag 60 aaagataaag aaaaagaaaa acaaaaagat aaagaaaaag gagatgctag tgacggaaat 120 gatggttcga ctagcacaaa aactggagag agagatagag atgtcaatgt tgggaccagt 180 ggaactteca etgtteegag aattaaatea tteaetgata agatggttet aecaagaatt 240 aagggaaaaa ctgtccttaa tttaaatcat cttcttcagt ataatccaca acaaattgac 300 30 atttctaaca ctcgtgccac tcagtcacaa tttgagaagt ggtacgaagg agtgaggagt 360 gattatggcc taaatgatag tgaaatgcaa gtgacgctaa atggcttgat ggtttggtgt 420 atcgagaatg gtacatctcc agacatatct ggtgtctggg ttatgatgga tggggaaacc 480 caagttgatt atccaatcaa gcctttaatt gagcacgcta ccccatcatt taggcagatt 540 atggctcact tcagtaacgc ggcagaagca tacactgcaa agagaaatgc tactgagagg 600 35 tacatgccgc ggtatggaat caagagaaat ttgactgaca ttagtctcgc tagatacgct 660 ttcgatttct atgaggtgaa ttcgaagaca cctgataggg ctcgtgaagc tcacatgcag 720 atgaaagctg cagogobgog aaacactaat cgcagaatgt ttggtatgga cggcagtgtt 780 agtaacaatg aagaaaacac ggagagacac acagtggaag atgtctatat agacatgcac 840 teteteetge gtttgegeaa etga 864 40

SEQ ID NO: 15 encodes the CP of the JA strain of PRSV which has an amino acid sequence corresponding to SEQ ID NO: 16, as follows:

- 21 -

Ser Lys Asn Glu Ala Val Asp Ala Gly Leu Asn Glu Lys Leu Lys Glu Lys Glu Lys Gln Lys Asp Lys Glu Lys Glu Lys Gln Lys Asp Lys Glu Lys Gly Asp Ala Ser Asp Gly Asn Asp Gly Ser Thr Ser Thr Lys Thr Gly Glu Arg Asp Arg Asp Val Asn Val Gly Thr Ser Gly Thr Ser Thr Val Pro Arg Ile Lys Ser Phe Thr Asp Lys Met Val Leu Pro Arg Ile .80 Lys Gly Lys Thr Val Leu Asn Leu Asn His Leu Leu Gln Tyr Asn Pro Gln Gln Ile Asp Ile Ser Asn Thr Arg Ala Thr Gln Ser Gln Phe Glu Lys Trp Tyr Glu Gly Val Arg Ser Asp Tyr Gly Leu Asn Asp Ser Glu Met Gln Val Thr Leu Asn Gly Leu Met Val Trp Cys Ile Glu Asn Gly Thr Ser Pro Asp Ile Ser Gly Val Trp Val Met Met Asp Gly Glu Thr Gln Val Asp Tyr Pro Ile Lys Pro Leu Ile Glu His Ala Thr Pro Ser Phe Arg Gln Ile Met Ala His Phe Ser Asn Ala Ala Glu Ala Tyr Thr

- 22 -

Ala Lys Arg Asn Ala Thr Glu Arg Tyr Met Pro Arg Tyr Gly Ile Lys 195 200 205

Arg Asn Leu Thr Asp Ile Ser Leu Ala Arg Tyr Ala Phe Asp Phe Tyr
5 210 215 220

Glu Val Asn Ser Lys Thr Pro Asp Arg Ala Arg Glu Ala His Met Gln 225 230 235 240

10 Met Lys Ala Ala Ala Leu Arg Asn Thr Asn Arg Arg Met Phe Gly Met
245 250 255

Asp Gly Ser Val Ser Asn Asn Glu Glu Asn Thr Glu Arg His Thr Val 260 265 270

Glu Asp Val Tyr Ile Asp Met His Ser Leu Leu Arg Leu Arg Asn
275 280 285

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Another nucleic acid suitable in the present invention is a *CP* gene isolated from the Oahu ("OA") strain of PRSV, corresponding to SEQ ID NO: 17, as follows:

tccaaqaatq aagctgtgga tgctggtttg aatgaaaaat tcaaagagaa ggaaaaacag 60 aaagaaaaag aaaaagaaaa acaaaaagag aaagaaaaag atggtgctag tgacgaaaat 120 25 gatgtgtcaa ctagcacaaa aactggagag agagatagag atgtcaatgt cgggaccagt 180 ggaactttca cagttccgag aattaaatca tttactgata agatgattct accgagaatt 240 aaqqqqaaqq ctgtccttaa tttaaatcat cttcttcagt acaatccgca acaaatcgac 300 atttctaaca ctcgtgccgc tcattcacaa tttgaaaagt ggtatgaggg agtgaggaat 360 gattatgccc ttaatgataa tgaaatgcaa gtgatgctaa atggtttgat ggtttggtgt 420 30 atcgagaatg gtacatctcc agacatatct ggtgtctggg taatgatgga tgggggaaacc 480 caaqtcqatt atccaatcaa gcctttgatt gagcatgcta ctccgtcatt taggcaaatt 540 atggctcact ttagtaacgc ggcagaagca tacattgcga agagaaatgc tactgagagg 600 tacatgccgc ggtatggaat caagagaaat ttgactgaca ttagcctcgc tagatacgct 660 ttcgactttt atgaggtgaa ttcgaaaaca cctgatagag ctcgcgaagc tcacatgcag 720 35 atqaaqqctq cagcqctqcq aaacaccagt cgcagaatgt ttggtatgga cggcagtgtt 780 agtaacaagg aagaaaacac ggagagacac acagtggaag atgtcaatag agacatgcac 840 864 teteteetgg gtatgegeaa etaa

SEQ ID NO: 17 encodes the CP of the OA strain of PRSV which has an amino acid sequence corresponding to SEQ ID NO: 18, as follows:

- 23 -

	Ser	Lys	Asn	Glu	Ala	Val	qaA	Ala	Gly	Leu	Asn	Glu	Lys	Phe	Lys	Glu
	1				5					10					15	
5	Lys	Glu	Lys	Gln	Lys	Glu	Lys	Glu	Lys	Glu	Lys	Gln	Lys	Glu	Lys	Glu
				20					25			•		30		
	Lys	Asp	Gly	Ala	Ser	Asp	Glu	Asn	Asp	Val	Ser	Thr	Ser	Thr	Lys	Thr
			35					40					45			
10	Ġly	Glu	Arq	Asp	Arq	asp	Val	Asn	Val	Gly	Thr	Ser	Gly	Thr	Phe	Thr
		50	•	•		•	55			•		60	•			
	Wa I	Dro	7~~	Tle	Tva	Co×	Dhe	Thr) en	Taro	Mat	Tla	T.em	Pro	Ara	Tle
15	65	PLO	Arg	116	шув.	70	FILE	****	- Can	БУО	75	116	Dea	PIO	ΑĽ	80
											•					
	Lys	Gly	Lys	Ala		Leu	Asn	Leu	Asn		Leu	Leu	Gln	Tyr		Pro
					85					90					95	•
20	Gln	Gln	Ile	Asp	Ile	Ser	Asn	Thr	Arg	Ala	Ala	His	Ser	Gln	Phe	Glu
				100					105					110		
	Lys	Trp	Tyr	Glu	Gly	Val	Arg	Asn	Asp	Tyr	Ala	Leu	Asn	Asp	Asn	Glu
0.5			115					120					125			
25	Met	Gln	Val	Met	Leu	Asn	Gly	Leu	Met	Val	Trp	Cys	Ile	Glu	Asn	Gly
		130					135				•	140				-
	Mb		Desc	3	71.	Com	~1	Wo 3	Warra.	Ma I	Vot	Wot	2	~1	C 1	mb se
30	145	ser	PIO	Asp	IIe	150	GIY	vai	пр	vai	155	met	Asp	Gly	GIU	160
	Gln	Val	Asp	Tyr		Ile	Lys	Pro	Leu	Ile 170	Glu	His	Ala	Thr		Ser
					165					170					175	
35	Phe	Arg	Gln	Ile	Met	Ala	His	Phe	Ser	Asn	Ala	Ala	Glu	Ala	Tyr	Ile
				180					185					190		
	Ala	Lys	Arg	Asn	Ala	Thr	Glu	Arg	Tyr	Met	Pro	Arg	Tyr	Gly	Ile	Lys
			105					200					205			

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Arg Asn Leu Thr Asp Ile Ser Leu Ala Arg Tyr Ala Phe Asp Phe Tyr
210 215 220

Glu Val Asn Ser Lys Thr Pro Asp Arg Ala Arg Glu Ala His Met Gln
5 225 230 235 240

Met Lys Ala Ala Leu Arg Asn Thr Ser Arg Met Phe Gly Met
245 250 255

10 Asp Gly Ser Val Ser Asn Lys Glu Glu Asn Thr Glu Arg His Thr Val
260 265 270

Glu Asp Val Asn Arg Asp Met His Ser Leu Leu Gly Met Arg Asn 275 280 285

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Another nucleic acid suitable in the present invention is the *CP* gene isolated from the Venezuela ("VE") strain of PRSV, corresponding to SEQ ID NO: 19, as follows:

20 atggctgtgg atgctggttt gaatgggaag ctcaaagaaa aagagaaaaa agaaaaagaa 60 aaaqaaaaac agaaagagaa agagaaagat gatgctagtg acggaaatga tgtgtcaact 120 agcacaaaaa ctggagagag agatagagat gtcaatattg ggaccagtgg aactttcact 180 qtccctaqqa ttaaatcatt tactgataag atgattttac cgagaattaa gggaaagact 240 gtccttaatt taaatcatct tcttcagtat aatccgaaac aaattgacat ttctaatact 300 25 cqtqccactc agtcgcaatt tgagaaatgg tatgagggag tgagggatga ttatggcctt 360 aatqataatq aaatqcaaqt qatqctaaat ggcttgatgg tttggtgcat tgagaatggt 420 acatetecag acatatetgg tgtttgggtt atggtggatg gggaaaceca agttgattat 480 ccaatcaagc ctttaattga gcatgctaca ccgtcattta ggcaaattat ggctcatttt 540 aqtaacgcgg cagaagcata cattgcgatg agaaatgcta ctgagaggta catgccgcgg 600 30 tatggaatca agagaaattt gactgacatc aacctagctc gatacgcttt tgatttctat 660 gaggtgaatt cgaaaacmcc tgatagggct cgtgaagctc acatgcagat gaaggctgca 720 qctttqcqaa acactaatcg cagaatgttt ggtatcgacg gcagtgttag caacaaggaa 780 qaaaacacqq aqaqacacac agtggatgat gtcaatagag acatgcactc tctcctgggt 840 885 atgcgcaact aaatactcgc acttgtgtgt ttgtcgagcc tgact

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SEQ ID NO: 19 encodes the CP of the VE strain of PRSV which has an amino acid sequence corresponding to SEQ ID NO: 20, as follows:

Met Ala Val Asp Ala Gly Leu Asn Gly Lys Leu Lys Glu Lys Glu Lys

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	Lys	Glu	Lys	Glu 20	Lys	Glu	Lys	Gln	Lys 25	Glu	Lys	Glu	Lys	Asp 30	Asp	Ala
5	Ser	Asp	Gly 35	Asn	Asp	Val	Ser	Thr 40	Ser	Thr	Lys	Thr	Gly 45	Glu	Arg	Asp
10	Arg	Авр 50	Val	Asn	Ile	Thr	Ser 55	Gly	Thr	Phe	Thr	Val 60	Pro	Arg	Ile	Lys
10	Ser 65	Phe	Thr	Asp	Lys	Met 70	Ile	Leu	Pro	Arg	Ile 75	Lys	Gly	Lys	Thr	Val 80
15	Leu	Asn	Leu	Asn	His 85	Leu	Leu	Gln	Tyr	Asn 90	Pro	Lys	Gln	Ile	Asp 95	Ile
	Ser	Asn	Thr	Arg 100	Ala	Thr	Gln	Ser	Gln 105	Phe	Glu	Lys	Trp	Tyr 110	Glu	Gly
20	Val	Arg	Asp 115	Asp	Tyr	Gly	Leu	Asn 120	Asp	Asn	Glu	Met	Gln 125	Val	Met	Leu
25	Asn	Gly 130	Leu	Met	Val	Trp	Cys 135	Ile	Glu	Asn	Gly	Thr 140	Ser	Pro	Asp	Ile
	Ser 145	Gly	Val	Trp	Val	Met 150	Val	Asp	Gly	Glu	Thr 155	Gln	Val	Asp	туг	Pro 160
30	Ile	Lys	Pro	Leu	Ile 165	Glu	His	Ala	Thr	Pro 170	Ser	Phe	Arg	Gln	Ile 175	Met
	Ala	His	Phe	Ser 180	Asn	Ala	Ala	Glu	Ala 185	Tyr	Ile	Ala	Met	Arg 190	Asn	Ala
35	Thr	Glu	Arg 195	Tyr	Met	Pro	Arg	Tyr 200	Gly	Ile	Lys	Arg	Asn 205	Leu	Thr	Asp
	Ile	Asn 210	Leu	Ala	Arg	Tyr	Ala 215	Phe	Asp	Phe	Tyr	Glu 220	Val	Asn	Ser	Lys

- 26 -

Xaa Pro Asp Arg Ala Arg Glu Ala His Met Gln Met Lys Alà Ala Ala 225 230 235 240

Leu Arg Asn Thr Asn Arg Arg Met Phe Gly Ile Asp Gly Ser Val Ser

245 250 255

Asn Lys Glu Glu Asn Thr Glu Arg His Thr Val Asp Asp Val Asn Arg 260 265 270

10 Asp Met His Ser Leu Leu Gly Met Arg Asn 275 280

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Also suitable for use in the present invention are variants of the nucleic acid molecules shown above. An example of a suitable nucleic acid is a nucleic acid molecule which has a nucleotide sequence that is at least 85% similar to the nucleotide sequence of the SEQ ID NOS: 1, 3, 5, 6, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, and 19 by basic BLAST using default parameters analysis, or which hybridizes to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NOS: 1, 3, 5, 6, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, and 19 under stringent conditions characterized by a hybridization buffer comprising 5X SSC buffer at a temperature of about 42°-65°C, preferbly 45°C.

Fragments of genes encoding PRSV-CP are particularly useful in the present invention. Fragments capable of use in the present invention can be produced by several means. In one method, subclones of the gene encoding the CP of choice are produced by conventional molecular genetic manipulation by subcloning gene fragments. In another approach, based on knowledge of the primary structure of the protein, fragments of a PRSV-CP encoding gene may be synthesized by using the PCR technique together with specific sets of primers chosen to represent particular portions of the protein. These, then, would be cloned into an appropriate vector in either the sense or antisense orientation.

Another example of suitable fragments of the nucleic acids of the present invention are fragments of the genes which have been identified as conserved ("con") regions of the CP proteins, or alternatively, those portions of PRSV-CP nucleotide sequences that have been identified as variable ("var") regions. Sequences identified using DNAStar Mega alignment program as either variable or conserved in a PRSV-CP gene can be amplified using standard PCR

methods using forward and reverse primers designed to amplify the region of choice and which include a restriction enzyme sequence to allow ligation of the PCR product into a vector of choice. Combinations of amplified conserved and variable region sequences can be ligated into a single vector to create a "cassette" which contains a plurality of DNA molecules in one vector. The use of conserved and variable regions of PRSV-CP DNA is further detailed below in the Examples.

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The present invention also relates to a DNA construct that contains a DNA molecule encoding for a PRSV-CP isolated from any of a variety of PRSV strains, most preferably the TH, KA, KE, YK, ME, BR, JA, OA, and VE strains. This involves incorporating one or more of the nucleic acid molecules of the present invention, or a suitable portion thereof, of the nucleic acid corresponding to SEQ ID NOS: 1, 3, 5, 6, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, and 19 into host cells using conventional recombinant DNA technology. Generally, this involves inserting the nucleic acid molecule into an expression system to which the nucleic acid molecule is heterologous (i.e., not normally present). The heterologous nucleic acid molecule is inserted into the expression system which includes the necessary elements for the transcription and translation of the inserted protein coding sequences.

The nucleic acid molecules of the present invention may be inserted into any of the many available expression vectors and cell systems using 20 reagents that are well known in the art. Suitable vectors include, but are not limited to, the following viral vectors such as lambda vector system gt11, gt WES.tB, Charon 4, and plasmid vectors such as pBR322, pBR325, pACYC177, pACYC1084, pUC8, pUC9, pUC18, pUC19, pLG339, pR290, pKC37, pKC101, SV 40, pBluescript II SK +/- or KS +/- (see "Stratagene Cloning Systems" 25 Catalog (1993) from Stratagene, La Jolla, CA, which is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety), pQE, pIH821, pGEX, pET series (see Studier et. al., "Use of T7 RNA Polymerase to Direct Expression of Cloned Genes," Gene Expression Technology vol. 185 (1990), which is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety), and any derivatives thereof. Recombinant molecules can 30 be introduced into cells via transformation, particularly transduction, conjugation, mobilization, or electroporation. The DNA sequences are cloned into the vector using standard cloning procedures in the art, as described by Sambrook et al..

Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual, Second Edition, Cold Spring Harbor Press, NY (1989), and Ausubel, F. M. et al. (1989) Current Protocols in Molecular Biology, John Wiley & Sons, New York, N.Y., which are hereby incorporated by reference in their entirety.

5 In preparing a DNA vector for expression, the various DNA sequences may normally be inserted or substituted into a bacterial plasmid. Any convenient plasmid may be employed, which will be characterized by having a bacterial replication system, a marker which allows for selection in a bacterium, and generally one or more unique, conveniently located restriction sites. 10 Numerous plasmids, referred to as transformation vectors, are available for plant transformation. The selection of a vector will depend on the preferred transformation technique and target species for transformation. A variety of vectors are available for stable transformation using Agrobacterium tumefaciens, a soilborne bacterium that causes crown gall. Crown gall are characterized by tumors or galls that develop on the lower stem and main roots of the infected 15 plant. These tumors are due to the transfer and incorporation of part of the bacterium plasmid DNA into the plant chromosomal DNA. This transfer DNA ("T-DNA") is expressed along with the normal genes of the plant cell. The plasmid DNA, pTi, or Ti-DNA, for "tumor inducing plasmid," contains the vir genes necessary for movement of the T-DNA into the plant. The T-DNA carries 20 genes that encode proteins involved in the biosynthesis of plant regulatory factors, and bacterial nutrients (opines). The T-DNA is delimited by two 25 bp imperfect direct repeat sequences called the "border sequences." By removing the oncogene and opine genes, and replacing them with a gene of interest, it is possible to transfer foreign DNA into the plant without the formation of tumors or the 25 multiplication of Agrobacterium tumefaciens (Fraley, et al., "Expression of Bacterial Genes in Plant Cells," Proc. Nat'l Acad. Sci. 80:4803-4807 (1983), which is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety).

Further improvement of this technique led to the development of
the binary vector system (Bevan, M., "Binary Agrobacterium Vectors for Plant
Transformation," Nucleic Acids Res. 12:8711-8721 (1984), which is hereby
incorporated by reference in its entirety). In this system, all the T-DNA sequences
(including the borders) are removed from the pTi, and a second vector containing

T-DNA is introduced into Agrobacterium tumefaciens. This second vector has the advantage of being replicable in E. coli as well as A. tumefaciens, and contains a multiclonal site that facilitates the cloning of a transgene. An example of a commonly used vector is pBin19 (Frisch, et al., "Complete Sequence of the Binary Vector Bin19," Plant Molec. Biol. 27:405-409 (1995), which is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety). Any appropriate vectors now known or later described for genetic transformation are suitable for use in the present invention.

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U.S. Patent No. 4,237,224 issued to Cohen and Boyer, which is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety, describes the production of expression systems in the form of recombinant plasmids using restriction enzyme cleavage and ligation with DNA ligase. These recombinant plasmids are then introduced by means of transformation and replicated in unicellular cultures including prokaryotic organisms and eukaryotic cells grown in tissue culture.

Certain "control elements" or "regulatory sequences" are also incorporated into the vector-construct. These include non-translated regions of the vector, promoters, and 5' and 3' untranslated regions which interact with host cellular proteins to carry out transcription and translation. Such elements may vary in their strength and specificity. Depending on the vector system and host utilized, any number of suitable transcription and translation elements, including constitutive and inducible promoters, may be used.

A constitutive promoter is a promoter that directs expression of a gene throughout the development and life of an organism. Examples of some constitutive promoters that are widely used for inducing expression of transgenes include the nopoline synthase ("NOS") gene promoter, from *Agrobacterium tumefaciens*, (U.S. Patent 5034322 to Rogers et al., which is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety), the cauliflower mosaic virus ("CaMV") 35S and 19S promoters (U.S. Patent No. 5,352,605 to Fraley et al., which is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety), the enhanced CaMV35S promoter ("enh CaMV35S"), the figwort mosaic virus full-length transcript promoter ("FMV35S"), those derived from any of the several actin genes, which are known to be expressed in most cells types (U.S. Patent No. 6,002,068 to Privalle et al., which is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety), and the ubiquitin

promoter ("ubi"), which is a gene product known to accumulate in many cell types.

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An inducible promoter is a promoter that is capable of directly or indirectly activating transcription of one or more DNA sequences or genes in response to an inducer. In the absence of an inducer, the DNA sequences or genes will not be transcribed. The inducer can be a chemical agent, such as a metabolite, growth regulator, herbicide or phenolic compound, or a physiological stress directly imposed upon the plant such as cold, heat, salt, toxins, the action of a pathogen or disease agent such as a virus or fungus. A plant cell containing an inducible promoter may be exposed to an inducer by externally applying the inducer to the cell or plant such as by spraying, watering, heating, or by exposure to the operative pathogen. An example of an appropriate inducible promoter for use in the present invention is a glucocorticoid-inducible promoter ("GIP") (Schena et al., "A Steroid-Inducible Gene Expression System for Plant Cells," Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. 88:10421-5 (1991), which is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety). Other useful promoters include promoters capable of expressing potyvirus proteins in an inducible manner or in a tissue-specific manner in certain cell types where infection is known to occur. These include, for example, the inducible promoters from phenylalanine ammonia lyase, chalcone synthase, extensin, pathogenesis-related protein, and wound-inducible protease inhibitor from potato. Other examples of such tissue specific promoters include seed, flower, or root specific promoters as are well known in the field (U.S. Patent No. 5,750,385 to Shewmaker et al., which is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety). For a review on maximizing gene expression, see Roberts and Lauer, Methods in Enzymology 68:473 (1979), which is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety.

The particular promoter selected is preferably capable of causing sufficient expression of the DNA coding sequences to which it is operably linked, to result in the production of amounts of the proteins effective to provide viral resistance, but not so much as to be detrimental to the cell in which they are expressed. The actual choice of the promoter is not critical, as long as it has sufficient transcriptional activity to accomplish the expression of the preselected proteins, where expression is desired, and subsequent conferral of viral resistance

to the plants. The promoters selected should be capable of functioning in tissues including, but not limited to, epidermal, vascular, and mesophyll tissues.

The nucleic acid construct of the present invention also includes an operable 3' regulatory region, which provides a functional poly(A) addition signal (AATAAA) 3' of its translation termination codon. This is selected from among 5 those which are capable of providing correct transcription termination and polyadenylation of mRNA for expression in the host cell of choice, operably linked to a DNA molecule which encodes for a protein of choice. A number of 3' regulatory regions are known to be operable in plants. Exemplary 3' regulatory regions include, without limitation, the nopaline synthase 3' regulatory region 10 (Fraley, et al., "Expression of Bacterial Genes in Plant Cells," Proc. Nat'l Acad. Sci. USA 80:4803-4807 (1983), which is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety) and the cauliflower mosaic virus 3' regulatory region (Odell, et al., "Identification of DNA Sequences Required for Activity of the Cauliflower Mosaic Virus 35S Promoter," Nature 313(6005):810-812 (1985), which is hereby 15 incorporated by reference in its entirety). Virtually any 3' regulatory region known to be operable in plants would suffice for proper expression of the coding sequence of the nucleic acid construct of the present invention.

regulatory region can be ligated together to produce the expression systems which contain the nucleic acids of the present invention, or suitable fragments thereof, using well known molecular cloning techniques as described in Sambrook et al., Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual, Second Edition, Cold Spring Harbor Press, NY (1989), and Ausubel et al. (1989) Current Protocols in Molecular Biology, John Wiley & Sons, New York, N.Y., which are hereby incorporated by reference in their entirety.

Once the isolated nucleic acid molecules encoding the various papaya ringspot virus coat proteins or polypeptides, as described above, have been cloned into an expression system, they are ready to be incorporated into a host cell. Such incorporation can be carried out by the various forms of transformation noted above, depending upon the vector/host cell system. Suitable host cells include, but are not limited to, bacteria, virus, yeast, mammalian cells, insect, plant, and the like.

Accordingly, another aspect of the present invention relates to a recombinant plant cell containing one or more of the PRSV-CP nucleic acids of the present invention. Basically, this method is carried out by transforming a plant cell with a nucleic acid construct of the present invention under conditions effective to yield transcription of the DNA molecule in response to the promoter. Methods of transformation may result in transient or stable expression of the DNA under control of the promoter. Preferably, the nucleic acid construct of the present invention is stably inserted into the genome of the recombinant plant cell as a result of the transformation, although transient expression can serve an important purpose, particularly when the plant under investigation is slow-growing.

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Plant tissue suitable for transformation include without limitation, leaf tissue, root tissue, meristems, zygotic and somatic embryos, callus, protoplasts, tassels, pollen, embryos, anthers, and the like. The means of transformation chosen is that most suited to the tissue to be transformed.

Transient expression in plant tissue is often achieved by particle bombardment (Klein et al., "High-Velocity Microprojectiles for Delivering Nucleic Acids Into Living Cells," Nature 327:70-73 (1987), which is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety). In this method, tungsten or gold microparticles (1 to 2 µm in diameter) are coated with the DNA of interest and then bombarded at the tissue using high pressure gas. In this way, it is possible to deliver foreign DNA into the nucleus and obtain a temporal expression of the gene under the current conditions of the tissue. Biologically active particles (e.g., dried bacterial cells containing the vector and heterologous DNA) can also be propelled into plant cells (U.S. Patent Nos. 4,945,050, 5,036,006, and 5,100,792, all to Sanford et al., which are hereby incorporated by reference in their entirety). For papaya, particle gun bombardment has been a particularly successful method (Fitch, M.M., "Stable Transformation of Papaya Via Micro-Projectile Bombardment," Plant Cell Rep. 9:189 (1990), and Fitch et al., "Somatic Embryogenesis and Plant Regeneration from Immature Zygotic Embryos of Papaya (Carica papaya L.)," Plant Cell Rep. 9:320 (1990), which are hereby incorporated by reference). Other variations of particle bombardment, now

known or hereafter developed, can also be used.

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An appropriate method of stably introducing the nucleic acid construct into plant cells is to infect a plant cell with Agrobacterium tumefaciens or Agrobacterium rhizogenes previously transformed with the nucleic acid construct. As described above, the Ti (or RI) plasmid of Agrobacterium enables the highly successful transfer of a foreign DNA into plant cells. Yet another method of introduction is fusion of protoplasts with other entities, either minicells, cells, lysosomes or other fusible lipid-surfaced bodies (Fraley, et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 79:1859-63 (1982), which is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety). The DNA molecule may also be introduced into the plant cells by electroporation (Fromm et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 82:5824 (1985), which is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety). In this technique, plant protoplasts are electroporated in the presence of plasmids containing the expression cassette. Electrical impulses of high field strength reversibly permeabilize biomembranes allowing the introduction of the plasmids.

15 Electroporated plant protoplasts reform the cell wall, divide, and regenerate. The precise method of transformation is not critical to the practice of the present invention. Any method that results in efficient transformation of the host cell of choice is appropriate for practicing the present invention.

After transformation, the transformed plant cells must be
regenerated. Plant regeneration from cultured protoplasts is described in Evans et al., Handbook of Plant Cell Cultures, Vol. 1: (MacMillan Publishing Co., New York, 1983); Vasil I.R. (ed.), Cell Culture and Somatic Cell Genetics of Plants, Acad. Press, Orlando, Vol. I, 1984, and Vol. III (1986), and Fitch et al., "Somatic Embryogenesis and Plant Regeneration from Immature Zygotic Embryos of Papaya (Carica papaya L.)," Plant Cell Rep. 9:320 (1990), which are hereby incorporated by reference it their entirety.

It is known that practically all plants can be regenerated from cultured cells or tissues, including but not limited to, all major species of sugarcane, sugar beets, cotton, fruit trees, and legumes.

Means for regeneration vary from species to species of plants, but generally, a suspension of transformed protoplasts or a petri plate containing explants is first provided. Callus tissue is formed and shoots may be induced from callus and subsequently rooted. Alternatively, embryo formation can be induced

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in the callus tissue. These embryos germinate as natural embryos to form plants. The culture media will generally contain various amino acids and hormones, such as auxin and cytokinins. Efficient regeneration will depend on the medium, on the genotype, and on the history of the culture. If these three variables are controlled, then regeneration is usually reproducible and repeatable.

Preferably, transformed cells are first identified using a selection marker simultaneously introduced into the host cells along with the nucleic acid construct of the present invention. Suitable selection markers include, without limitation, markers encoding for antibiotic resistance, such as the nptII gene which confers kanamycin resistance (Fraley, et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 80:4803-4807 (1983), which is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety), and the genes which confer resistance to gentamycin, G418, hygromycin, streptomycin, spectinomycin, tetracycline, chloramphenicol, and the like. Cells or tissues are grown on a selection medium containing the appropriate antibiotic, whereby generally only those transformants expressing the antibiotic resistance marker continue to grow. Other types of markers are also suitable for inclusion in the expression cassette of the present invention. For example, a gene encoding for herbicide tolerance, such as tolerance to sulfonylurea is useful, or the dhfr gene, which confers resistance to methotrexate (Bourouis et al., EMBO J. 2:1099-1104 (1983), which is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety). Similarly, "reporter genes," which encode for enzymes providing for production of an identifiable compound are suitable. The most widely used reporter gene for gene fusion experiments has been uidA, a gene from Escherichia coli that encodes the β-glucuronidase protein, also known as GUS (Jefferson et al., "GUS Fusions: β Glucuronidase as a Sensitive and Versatile Gene Fusion Marker in Higher Plants," EMBO J. 6:3901-3907 (1987), which is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety). Similarly, enzymes providing for production of a compound identifiable by luminescence, such as luciferase, are useful. The selection marker employed will depend on the target species; for certain target species, different antibiotics. herbicide, or biosynthesis selection markers are preferred.

Plant cells and tissues selected by means of an inhibitory agent or other selection marker are then tested for the acquisition of the viral gene by Southern blot hybridization analysis, using a probe specific to the viral genes

contained in the given cassette used for transformation (Sambrook et al., "Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual," Cold Spring Harbor, New York: Cold Spring Harbor Press (1989), which is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety).

5 The presence of a viral coat protein gene can also be detected by immunological assays, such as the double-antibody sandwich assays described by Namba et al., "Expression of the Gene Encoding the Coat Protein of Cucumber Mosaic Virus (CMV) Strain WL appears to Provide Protection to Tobacco Plants Against Infection by Several Different CMV Strains," Gene 107:181-188 (1991), 10 which is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety, as modified by Clark et al., "Characteristics Of the Microplate Method for Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay For the Detection of plant Viruses," J. Gen. Virol. 34, 475-83 (1977), which is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety. Potyvirus resistance can also be assayed via infectivity studies as generally described by 15 Namba et al., "Protection of Transgenic Plants Expressing the Coat Protein Gene of Watermelon Virus ii or Zucchini Yellow Mosaic Virus Against Potyviruses," Phytopath. 82:940946 (1992), which is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety, wherein plants are scored as symptomatic when any inoculated leaf shows veinclearing, mosaic, or necrotic symptoms.

After the expression cassette is stably incorporated in transgenic plants, it can be transferred to other plants by sexual crossing. Any of a number of standard breeding techniques can be used, depending upon the species to be crossed. Once transgenic plants of this type are produced, the plants themselves can be cultivated in accordance with conventional procedure so that the nucleic acid construct is present in the resulting plants. Alternatively, transgenic seeds or propagules (e.g., cuttings) are recovered from the transgenic plants. These seeds can then be planted in the soil and cultivated using conventional procedures to produce transgenic plants.

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The present invention also relates to DNA constructs which contain
a plurality of DNA molecules which are derived from one or more genes which
encode a papaya ringspot viral coat protein. The PRSV-CP DNA molecules may
be derived from one or more strains, including, but not limited to, TH, KE, KA,
ME, YK, BR, JA, OA, and VE. Some of the PRSV-CP DNA molecules may be a

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fragment of the nucleic acid sequence of the CP(s) of choice which by itself is too short, i.e., does not contain sufficient nucleotide sequence, to impart its respective trait when placed in an vector and used to transform plant cells as described above. Collectively, however, this plurality of DNA molecules impart their trait to the transformed plant. The trait which is imparted is resistance to the PRSV strain from which any given DNA molecule in the construct is derived. Suitable nucleic acids for this construct include fragments of a PRSV CP-encoding DNA molecule, of any strain, including but not limited to, TH, KE, KA, ME, YK, BR, JA, OA, and VE. The DNA molecules are inserted in the construct as less than full-length DNA, preferably in the range of about 200 bp of the full-length PRSV-CP DNA molecule. The 200 bp fragments are preferably chosen from the conserved and variable regions of CP-encoding DNA. There is no need to include separate promoters for each of the fragments; only a single promoter is required. Moreover, such viral gene fragments can preferably be incorporated in a single expression system to produce transgenic plants with a single transformation event.

The present invention also relates to a DNA construct containing a fusion gene which includes a trait DNA molecule which has a length insufficient to independently impart a desired trait to plants transformed with the trait molecule, operatively coupled to a silencer molecule effective to achieve posttranscriptional gene silencing. The trait DNA molecule and the silencer molecule collectively impart the trait to plants transformed with the construct. The trait DNA molecules of this DNA construct are derived from a gene encoding a papaya ringspot viral coat protein from a papaya ringspot virus strains which include, but are not limited to TH, KE, KA, ME, YK, BR, JA, OA, and VE. The fragments of trait DNA molecules are subcloned into the fusion gene cassette. Suitable DNA fragments are those of about 200 bp which derive from the variable and conserved regions of the CP-encoding molecules of choice. The silencer molecule of the construct of the present invention can be selected from virtually any nucleic acid which effects gene silencing. This involves the cellular mechanism to degrade mRNA homologous to the transgene mRNA. The silencer DNA molecule can be heterologous to the plant, need not interact with the trait DNA molecule in the plant, and can be positioned 3' to the trait DNA molecule. For example, the silencer DNA molecule can be a viral cDNA molecule, including, without

limitation, a gene encoding a replicase, a movement protein, or a nucleocapsid protein; a green fluorescence protein encoding DNA molecule, a plant DNA molecule, or combinations thereof.

In any of the constructs of the present invention, the DNA

molecule conferring disease resistance can be positioned within the DNA
construct in the sense (5'→3') orientation. Alternatively, it can have an antisense
(3'→5') orientation. Antisense RNA technology involves the production of an
RNA molecule that is complementary to the messenger RNA molecule of a target
gene. The antisense RNA can potentially block all expression of the targeted
gene. In the anti-virus context, plants are made to express an antisense RNA
molecule corresponding to a viral RNA (that is, the antisense RNA is an RNA
molecule which is complementary to a "plus" (+) sense RNA species encoded by
an infecting virus). Such plants may show a slightly decreased susceptibility to
infection by that virus. Such a complementary RNA molecule is termed antisense
RNA.

It is possible for the DNA construct of the present invention to be configured so that the trait and silencer DNA molecules encode RNA molecules which are translatable. As a result, that RNA molecule will be translated at the ribosomes to produce the protein encoded by the DNA construct. Production of proteins in this manner can be increased by joining the cloned gene encoding the DNA construct of interest with synthetic double-stranded oligonucleotides which represent a viral regulatory sequence (i.e., a 5' untranslated sequence) (U.S. Patent No. 4,820,639 to Gehrke, and U.S. Patent No. 5,849,527 to Wilson, which are hereby incorporated by reference in their entirety).

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Alternatively, the DNA construct of the present invention can be configured so that the trait and silencer DNA molecules encode mRNA which is not translatable. This is achieved by introducing into the DNA molecule one or more premature stop codons, adding one or more bases (except multiples of 3 bases) to displace the reading frame, removing the translation initiation codon, etc. See U.S. Patent No. 5,583,021 to Dougherty et al., which is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety. The subject DNA construct can be incorporated in cells using conventional recombinant DNA technology, such as described in detail above.

Another aspect of the present invention is a method to confer resistance to PRSV to plants. This involves transforming susceptible plants with one or more of the nucleic acid constructs of the present invention, testing for transformation using a marker inherent in the vector, selecting transgenics, and regenerating and reproducing the transgenic plants as described above. The expression system of the present invention can be used to transform virtually any plant tissue under suitable conditions. Transformed cells can be regenerated into whole plants such that the PRSV-transgene imparts resistance to PRSV in the intact transgenic plants. In either case, the plant cells transformed with the recombinant DNA expression system of the present invention are grown and caused to express the DNA molecule or molecules in the constructs of the present invention, and, thus, to impart papaya ringspot resistance.

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While not wishing to be bound by theory, by use of the constructs of the present invention, it is believed that post-transcriptional gene silencing is achieved. More particularly, the silencer DNA molecule is believed to boost the level of heterologous RNA within the cell above a threshold level. This activates the degradation mechanism by which viral resistance is achieved.

Transgenic plants which show post-transcription gene silencing-derived resistance establish the highly resistant state and prevent virus replication. A chimeric transgene consisting of a silencer DNA (e.g., GFP) fused with various small nontranslatable fragment viral genome would be preferred for viral resistance. There are several advantages. First, the silencer DNA can increase the induced gene silencing. Second, the chimeric nature of the gene would provide multiple virus resistance. Third, nontranslatable construction produces no protein, thus reducing the possible complementation of naturally occurring mutants and transencapsidation of other viruses. Fourth, the small fragment also reduces the possibility of recombination with other viral genomes.

Absent a complete understanding of the mechanism(s) of viral resistance conferred through this type of genetic manipulation, optimization of the production of viral resistant transgenics is still under study. Thus, the degree of resistance imparted to a given transgenic plant (high, medium, or low efficacy) is unpredictable. However, it has been noted that when combinations of viral gene expression cassettes are placed in the same binary plasmid, and that multigene

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cassette containing plasmid is transformed into a plant, the viral genes all exhibit substantially the same degrees of efficacy when present in transgenic plants. For example, if one examines numerous transgenic lines containing two different intact viral gene cassettes, the transgenic line will be immune to infection by both viruses. Likewise if a transgenic line exhibits a delay in symptom development to one virus, it will also exhibit a delay in symptom development to the second virus. Finally, if a transgenic line is susceptible to one of the viruses it will be susceptible to the other. This phenomenon is unexpected. If there were not a correlation between the efficacy of each gene in these multiple gene constructs, this approach as a tool in plant breeding would probably be prohibitively difficult to use. The probability of finding a line with useful levels of expression can range from 10-50%, depending on the species involved (U.S. Patent No. 6,002,072 to McMaster et al., which is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety).

The present invention will be further described by reference to the following detailed examples.

EXAMPLES

Example 1- Amplification and Cloning of CP Variable Region DNAs

Total RNA was extracted from PRSV-infected papaya plants. Different *PRSV-CP* gene fragments, each about 200 bp, from Taiwan (YK), Keaau (KE), and Thailand (TH) strains were amplified by reverse-transcription and polymerase-chain-reaction (RT-PCR) and extracted from agarose gels. The primers used to amplify the variable region of the PRSV-CP gene of strains YK, KE, and TH are shown in Table 1.

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Table 1

	Product	Primer	Primer Sequence	
PRSV Strain	(bp)	position	(SEQ ID NO)	
YKvar 5'YKvarXba	209	21-39	5' GAGAtctaga TAATGA <u>TACCGGTCTGAATGAGAAG</u> 3' (SEQ ID NO: 21)	
3'YkvarXho		212-229	5' GGATctcgag AGATCATCTTATCAGTAA 3' (SEQ ID NO: 22)	
KEvar	209			
5'KEvarXho		21-39	5' TAGActegag TGCTGGTTTGAATGAAAAA 3 (SEQ ID NO: 23)	
3'KEvarSma	·	211-229	5' CGATeceggg GAATCAACTTATCAGTAA 3' (SEQ ID NO: 24)	
THvar	206			
5'THvarSma		21-39	5' TATAcceggg TGCTGGTCTTAATGAGAAG 3' (SEQ ID NO: 25)	
3'THvarBam		209-226	5' CTACggatcc AAATCATCTTGTCGGTAA 3' (SEQ ID NO: 26)	

Restriction enzyme sequence is shown in small letters; the stop codon is shown in caps, without underline; viral sequences are <u>underlined</u>.

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Following amplification using conventional PCR techniques, the amplified fragments were digested with the appropriate restriction enzymes. A restriction enzyme XbaI-XhoI digested YK fragment (209 bp) was first ligated into the pEPJ vector. A XhoI-SmaI digested KE fragment (209 bp) was ligated behind (i.e., at the 3' end of) the YK fragment and then a SmaI-BamHI digested TH fragment (206 bp) was ligated behind the KE. The resultant clone, pEPJ-YKT, shown in Figure 1A, contains the variable region of CP from YK-KE-TH in the 5' \rightarrow 3' direction. Following a HindIII-KpnI restriction digest, the pEPJ-YKT expression cassette was ligated into the HindIII-KpnI cloning site of transformation vector pGA482G, shown in Figure 1B, resulting in clone pTi-EPJ-YKT. Cesium chloride purified pTi-EPJ-YKT was then used for host cell transformation by particle gun bombardment.

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Example 2 - Cloning of CP Variable Regions into Silencer Construct

Fragments Xbal/BamHI from pEPJ-YKT were ligated into other expression vectors pNP, shown in Figure 2A, and pGFP, shown in Figure 2B, creating pNP-YKT and pGFP-YKT, respectively. "M1/2 NP" shown in Figure 2A refers to a fragment consisting of approximately one half (387-453 bp) of the gene encoding the nucleocapsid protein ("N" or "NP" gene) of the viral genome of the tomato spotted wilt virus ("TSWV"), a tospovirus that causes crop damage worldwide. Expression of large fragments (approximately 1/2 or greater) of the N gene of TSWV have been shown to confer high levels of resistance to TSWV-BL in 20-51% of R1 plants transformed with the fragment, and tolerance to tospovirus infection in 4-22% of R1 plants isolate but not to the distantly related Impatiens necrotic spot virus ("INSV") (Law et al., "The M RNA of Impatiens Necrotic Spot Tospovirus (Bunyaviridae) Has an Ambisense Genomic Organization," Virology, 188:732-41 (1992), which is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety) or groundnut ringspot virus ("GRSV") (Pang et al., "The Biological Properties of a Distinct Tospovirus and Sequence Analysis of Its mRNA," Phytopathology, 83:728-33 (1993), which is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety). The N gene of TSWV is an example of a gene derived from the viral genome that is useful as a silencer molecule in the nucleic acid constructs of the present invention. Restriction enzyme HindIII/KpnI digested fragments from these two expression vectors were then ligated into the HindIII/KpnI cloning site of the transformation vector pGA482G, resulting in clones pTi-NP-YKT and pTi-GFP-YKT. Cesium chloride purified pTi-NP-YKT and pTi-GFP-YKT were then used for host cell transformation by particle gun bombardment.

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Example 3 - Amplification and Cloning of CP Conserved Region DNAs

Total RNA was extracted from PRSV-infected papaya plants.

Different PRSV-CP gene fragments, each about 200 bp, from Keaau (KE) and Thailand (TH) were amplified by RT-PCR. The primers used to amplify the conserved region of the PRSV-CP gene of strains KE and TH are shown in Table

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Table 2

	Product	Primer	Primer Sequence
PRSV Strain	(bp)	position	(SEQ ID NO)
KEcon	203		
5'KEconXbaSal		649-686	5"TCAAtctagagtcgacGCTAGATATGCTTTCGAC3" (SEQ ID NO: 27)
3'KEconXhoSal		834-851	5'AAGTetegaggtegac <u>CCCAGGAGAGAGTGCATG</u> 3'
			(SEQ ID NO: 28)
THcon	203	646-683	
5'THconSma			5'AATAcccgggGCTAGATATGCTTTCGAC 3' (SEQ ID NO: 29)
3'THconBam		831-848	5'TTATggatccCCTAGGAGAGAGTGCATG 3 (SEQ ID NO: 30)

Restriction enzyme sequence is shown in small letters; the stop codon is shown in caps, without underline; viral sequences are underlined.

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Constructs containing the silencer molecule 1/2 NP are shown in Figures 3A-G. These constructs are designated herein as clone pNP-X_n, where "X" denominates of PRSV strain from which the *CP* DNA is derived, and "n" represents the number fragments of "X" in the cassette. When the DNA is inserted in the sense orientation, "X" is the first initial of the strain, for example, "K" for KE, "T" for TH. When a fragment is inserted in the antisense orientation, the strain acronym is flipped, for example, KE becomes EK, and "X" becomes the first initial of the antisense designation. For example, for an antisense fragment of KE, "X" becomes "E." Translatable and nontranslatable forms of the DNA molecule are further designated with the prefix "TL" and "NTL", respectively.

Clone pNP-K, shown in Figure 3A, was obtained by ligating a single 203 bp XbaI/XhoI digested KE DNA fragment in a sense orientation into the expression vector pNP containing the 365 bp M1/2NP DNA molecule. Clone pNP-KK, shown in Figure 3B, and pNP-EE, shown Figure 3C, containing sense and antisense KE fragments, respectively, were obtained by ligating a SaII digested KE DNA fragment into pNP-K. Clone pNP-KKTC, shown in Figure 3D, pNP-KKTV, shown in Figure 3E, pNP-EETC, shown in Figure 3F; and pNP-EETV, shown in Figure 3G, were obtained by ligating a SmaI/BamHI digested KE

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fragment from the conserved region (KEcon) or from the variable region (KEvar) into pNP-KK or pNP-EE.

The pNP clones were *HindIII /KpnI* digested from the expression vectors, and ligated into the *HindIII/KpnI* cloning site of the transformation vector pGA482G, resulting in clones pTi-NP-K, pTi-NP-KK, pTi-NP-EE, pTi-NP-KKTC, pTi-NP-KKTV, pTi-NP-EETC and pTi-NP-EETV. Cesium chloride purified pTi-NP-clones were then used for host cell transformation by particle gun bombardment.

10 <u>Example 4</u> - Amplification and Cloning of Full Length Translatable and Nontranslatable KE

Two full-length KE-CP constructs, shown in Figure 4, start from the first CP cut site which is 60 nt upstream from the second CP cut site. The primers used for amplification and construction of pEPJ-TL KE and pEPJ-NTL KE are shown in Table 3.

Table 3

	Product	Primer Sequence
PRSV Strain	(bp)	(SEQ ID NO)
TLKE	921	
55'KETL		5'AGCTAAccatggAA <u>TCAAGGAGCACTGATGATTATC</u> 3' (SEQ ID NO: 31)
3'KE10117		
		5'ATTTggatcccgggGTTGCGCATGCCCAGGAGAGAG 3' (SEQ ID NO: 32)
NTL KE	921	
5'KENTL		5' AGCTAAccatggAATAATGGAGCACTGATGATTATC 3' (SEQ ID NO: 33)
3'KE10117		5'ATTTggatcccgggGTTGCGCATGCCCAGGAGAGAG 3' (SEQ ID NO: 34)

Restriction enzyme sequence is shown in small letters; the stop codon is shown in caps, without underline; viral sequences are underlined.

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Following amplification, the NcoI/BamHI digested PCR KECP fragments were ligated into pEPJ vector, as shown in Figure 4. Using

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HindII/KpnI, the expression cassette was then subcloned into the transformation vector pGA482G.

Example 5 - Amplification and Cloning of MEX CP

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The primers used for amplification and preparation of construct pEPJ-MEX CP are shown in Table 4.

Table 4

PRSV Strain	Product (bp)	Primer Sequence (SEQ ID NO)
NTL Mex		
5'MEXXbaNco	855	5'CGAtctagaccattggAATAATGA <u>TCCAAGAATGAAGC</u> 3' (SEQ ID NO: 35)
3'МЕХВАМ	-	5'CTTAggatccGTTGCGCATACCCAGGAGAGA 3' 3' (SEQ ID NO: 36)

Restriction enzyme sequence is shown in small letters; the stop codon is shown in caps, without underline; viral sequences are <u>underlined</u>.

Example 6 - Transformation of Papaya with PRSV-CP DNA Constructs

Papaya embryos were bombarded with DNA constructs prepared as described above and shown in Figures 2-5. The transformation procedure was followed as described in Cai et al., "A Protocol for Efficient Transformation and Regeneration of Carica papaya L. In Vitro," Cell Devel. Biol-Plant 35: 61-69 (1999), which is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety. Plasmid DNA was purified by ethidium bromide CsCl gradient (Ausubel et al., "CsCl/Ethidium Bromide Preparations of Plasmid DNA," Current Protocols in Molec Biol. unit 2.9.1-2.9.20 (1995), which is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety), ethanol precipitated and suspended in water. Immature zygotic embryos were extracted from seeds of immature green 'Sunrise' or 'Kapoho' papaya and placed on induction medium and kept in the dark. Zygotic embryos with their somatic embryo clusters were placed on Whatman #2 filter paper and spread. The somatic embryos were allowed to proliferate, and following this, the embryos were spread firmly onto fresh filter paper and bombarded with tungsten-coated plasmid DNA. Seven days after bombardment, materials were transferred to induction medium

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containing kanamycin at 75 mg/L. After four weeks, the kanamycin level was raised to 150 mg/L. After a few weeks in kanamycin medium, actively growing embryo clusters were transferred to kanamycin-free medium. When the embryos developed a pale ivory color and appeared as finger-like extensions, they were transferred to maturation medium for two to four weeks. Mature somatic embryos were transferred to germination medium and then developed into plantlets with dark green leaves and root initials. Those plantlets were transferred to baby jars with rooting medium and transferred to the greenhouse.

Transgenic lines from the germination medium were analyzed by

PCR to confirm that the virus gene was in the plantlets. Northern blots were
carried out to detect the level of RNA expressed in transgenic lines, and the copy
number of the transgene in the transgenic plants was determined by Southern blot
analysis.

Following transfer to the greenhouse, transgenic plants were challenged with the KE strain of PRSV. Plants were thereafter monitored for viral symptoms. If no disease symptoms appeared after approximately 4 weeks post-inoculation, those plants were challenged with a different PRSV strain to test for cross-resistance.

20 Example 7 - Resistance Imparted to PRSV by Transgenes

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219 transgenic lines containing the various PRSV DNA constructs of the present invention, as described above, were transferred to the greenhouse. Inoculation with KE virus was carried out on 90 plant lines transformed with at least one KE-containing DNA construct. Of those 90 lines challenged with PRSV-KE, 26 lines showed resistance and 64 lines were susceptible.

Although preferred embodiments have been depicted and described in detail herein, it will be apparent to those skilled in the relevant art that various modifications, additions, substitutions, and the like can be made without departing from the spirit of the invention and these are therefore considered to be within the scope of the invention as defined in the claims which follow.

WHAT IS CLAIMED:

- 1. An isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding a papaya ringspot virus coat protein, wherein the nucleic acid molecule either: 1) has a nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1; 2) encodes an amino acid having SEQ ID NO: 2; 3) has a nucleotide sequence that is at least 85% similar to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 by basic BLAST using default parameters analysis; or 4) hybridizes to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 under stringent conditions characterized by a hybridization buffer comprising 5X SSC buffer at a temperature of 45°C.
 - A DNA construct comprising:
 the nucleic acid molecule according to claim 1 and
 an operably linked promoter and 3' regulatory region.

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claim 2.

- 3. A DNA expression vector comprising: the DNA construct according to claim 2.
- 4. A host cell transduced with a DNA construct according to
- 5. A host cell according to claim 4, wherein the cell is selected from the group consisting of a bacterial cell, a virus, a yeast cell, and a plant cell.
- 25 6. A transgenic plant transformed with a DNA construct according to claim 2.
 - 7. A transgenic plant according to claim 6, wherein the plant is papaya.

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8. A transgenic plant seed transformed with a DNA construct according to claim 2.

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9. A transgenic plant seed according to claim 8, wherein the plant is papaya.

- ringspot virus coat protein wherein the nucleic acid molecule either: 1) has a nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3; 2) encodes an amino acid having SEQ ID NO: 4; 3) has a nucleotide sequence that is at least 85% similar to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3 by basic BLAST using default parameters analysis; or 4) hybridizes to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3 under stringent conditions characterized by a hybridization buffer comprising 5X SSC buffer at a temperature of 45°C.
 - 11. A DNA construct comprising:
 the nucleic acid molecule according to claim 10 and
 an operably linked promoter and 3' regulatory region.

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- 12. An expression vector comprising the DNA construct of claim 11.
- 13. A host cell transduced with a DNA construct according to claim 11.
- 14. A host cell according to claim 13, wherein the cell is selected from the group consisting of a bacterial cell, a virus, a yeast cell, and a plant cell.
 - 15. A transgenic plant transformed with a DNA construct according to claim 11.
 - 16. A transgenic plant according to claim 15, wherein the plant is papaya.

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- 17. A transgenic plant seed transformed with a DNA construct according to claim 11.
- 5 18. A transgenic plant seed according to claim 17, wherein the plant is papaya.
- ringspot virus coat protein, wherein the nucleic acid molecule either: 1) has a nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 5; 2) encodes an amino acid having SEQ ID NO: 7; 3) has a nucleotide sequence that is at least 85% similar to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 5 by basic BLAST using default parameters analysis; or 4) hybridizes to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 5 under stringent conditions characterized by a hybridization buffer comprising 5X SSC buffer at a temperature of 45°C.
 - 20. A DNA construct comprising: the nucleic acid molecule according to claim 19 and an operably linked promoter and 3' regulatory region.

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- 21. A DNA expression vector comprising: the DNA construct according to claim 20.
- 22. A host cell transduced with a DNA construct according to claim 20.
 - 23. A host cell according to claim 22, wherein the cell is selected from the group consisting of a bacterial cell, a virus, a yeast cell, and a plant cell.

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24. A transgenic plant transformed with a DNA construct according to claim 20.

- 25. A transgenic plant according to claim 24, wherein the plant is papaya.
- 5 26. A transgenic plant seed transformed with a DNA construct according to claim 20.
 - 27. A transgenic plant seed according to claim 26, wherein the plant is papaya.

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- 28. An isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding a papaya ringspot virus coat protein wherein the nucleic acid molecule either: 1) has a nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 6; 2) encodes an amino acid having SEQ ID NO: 8; 3) has a nucleotide sequence that is at least 85% similar to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 6 by basic BLAST using default parameters analysis; or 4) hybridizes to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 6 under stringent conditions characterized by a hybridization buffer comprising 5X SSC buffer at a temperature of 45°C.
- 29. A DNA construct comprising:
 the nucleic acid molecule according to claim 28 and
 an operably linked promoter and 3' regulatory region.
- 30. An expression vector comprising the DNA construct of claim 29.
 - 31. A host cell transduced with a DNA construct according to claim 29.
- 30. A host cell according to claim 31, wherein the cell is selected from the group consisting of a bacterial cell, a virus, a yeast cell, and a plant cell.

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- 33. A transgenic plant transformed with a DNA construct according to claim 29.
- 34. A transgenic plant according to claim 33, wherein the plant5 is papaya.
 - 35. A transgenic plant seed transformed with a DNA construct according to claim 29.
- 10 36. A transgenic plant seed according to claim 35, wherein the plant is papaya.
- 37. An isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding a papaya ringspot virus coat protein, wherein the nucleic acid molecule either: 1) has a nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 11; 2) encodes an amino acid having SEQ ID NO: 12; 3) has a nucleotide sequence that is at least 85% similar to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 11 by basic BLAST using default parameters analysis; or 4) hybridizes to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 11 under stringent conditions characterized by a hybridization buffer comprising 5X SSC buffer at a temperature of 45°C.
 - 38. A DNA construct comprising: the nucleic acid molecule according to claim 37 and an operably linked promoter and 3' regulatory region.
 - 39. A DNA expression vector comprising: the DNA construct according to claim 38.

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40. A host cell transduced with a DNA construct according to claim 38.

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- 41. A host cell according to claim 40, wherein the cell is selected from the group consisting of a bacterial cell, a virus, a yeast cell, and a plant cell.
- 5 42. A transgenic plant transformed with a DNA construct according to claim 38.
 - 43. A transgenic plant according to claim 42, wherein the plant is papaya.

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- 44. A transgenic plant seed transformed with a DNA construct according to claim 38.
- 45. A transgenic plant seed according to claim 44, wherein the plant is papaya.
 - 46. An isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding a papaya ringspot virus coat protein wherein the nucleic acid molecule either: 1) has a nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 13; 2) encodes an amino acid having SEQ ID NO: 14; 3) has a nucleotide sequence that is at least 85% similar to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 13 by basic BLAST using default parameters analysis; or 4) hybridizes to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 13 under stringent conditions characterized by a hybridization buffer comprising 5X SSC buffer at a temperature of 45°C.

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- 47. A DNA construct comprising: the nucleic acid molecule according to claim 46 and an operably linked promoter and 3' regulatory region.
- 30 48. An expression vector comprising the DNA construct of claim 47.

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49. A host cell transduced with a DNA construct according to claim 47.

- 50. A host cell according to claim 49, wherein the cell is selected from the group consisting of a bacterial cell, a virus, a yeast cell, and a plant cell.
 - 51. A transgenic plant transformed with a DNA construct according to claim 47.

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- 52. A transgenic plant according to claim 51, wherein the plant is papaya.
- 53. A transgenic plant seed transformed with a DNA construct according to claim 47.
 - 54. A transgenic plant seed according to claim 53, wherein the plant is papaya.
- ringspot virus coat protein, wherein the nucleic acid molecule either: 1) has a nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 15; 2) encodes an amino acid having SEQ ID NO: 16; 3) has a nucleotide sequence that is at least 85% similar to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 15 by basic BLAST using default parameters analysis; or 4) hybridizes to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 15 under stringent conditions characterized by a hybridization buffer comprising 5X SSC buffer at a temperature of 45°C.
 - 56. A DNA construct comprising:the nucleic acid molecule according to claim 55 andan operably linked promoter and 3' regulatory region.

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- 57. A DNA expression vector comprising: the DNA construct according to claim 56.
- 58. A host cell transduced with a DNA construct according to claim 56.
 - 59. A host cell according to claim 58, wherein the cell is selected from the group consisting of a bacterial cell, a virus, a yeast cell, and a plant cell.

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- 60. A transgenic plant transformed with a DNA construct according to claim 56.
- 61. A transgenic plant according to claim 60, wherein the plant 15 is papaya.
 - 62. A transgenic plant seed transformed with a DNA construct according to claim 56.
- 20 63. A transgenic plant seed according to claim 62, wherein the plant is papaya.
- ringspot virus coat protein wherein the nucleic acid molecule either: 1) has a

 nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 17; 2) encodes an amino acid having SEQ

 ID NO: 18; 3) has a nucleotide sequence that is at least 85% similar to the
 nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 17 by basic BLAST using default parameters
 analysis; or 4) hybridizes to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 17 under
 stringent conditions characterized by a hybridization buffer comprising 5X SSC

 buffer at a temperature of 45°C.
 - 65. A DNA construct comprising:

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the nucleic acid molecule according to claim 64 and an operably linked promoter and 3' regulatory region.

- 66. An expression vector comprising the DNA construct of claim 65.
 - 67. A host cell transduced with a DNA construct according to claim 65.
- 10 68. A host cell according to claim 67, wherein the cell is selected from the group consisting of a bacterial cell, a virus, a yeast cell, and a plant cell.
- 69. A transgenic plant transformed with a DNA construct according to claim 65.
 - 70. A transgenic plant according to claim 69, wherein the plant is papaya.
- 20 71. A transgenic plant seed transformed with a DNA construct according to claim 65.
 - 72. A transgenic plant seed according to claim 71, wherein the plant is papaya.

73. An isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding a papaya ringspot virus coat protein wherein the nucleic acid molecule either: 1) has a nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 19; 2) encodes an amino acid having SEQ

ID NO: 20; 3) has a nucleotide sequence that is at least 85% similar to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 19 by basic BLAST using default parameters analysis; or 4) hybridizes to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 19 under

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stringent conditions characterized by a hybridization buffer comprising 5X SSC buffer at a temperature of 45°C.

74. A DNA construct comprising:
the nucleic acid molecule according to claim 73 and
an operably linked promoter and 3' regulatory region.

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- 75. An expression vector comprising the DNA construct of claim 74.
- 76. A host cell transduced with a DNA construct according to claim 74.
- 77. A host cell according to claim 76, wherein the cell is selected from the group consisting of a bacterial cell, a virus, a yeast cell, and a plant cell.
 - 78. A transgenic plant transformed with a DNA construct according to claim 74.
 - 79. A transgenic plant according to claim 78, wherein the plant is papaya.
- 80. A transgenic plant seed transformed with a DNA construct according to claim 74.
 - 81. A transgenic plant seed according to claim 80, wherein the plant is papaya.
- 30 82. A DNA construct comprising:

 a plurality of trait DNA molecules at least some of which have a length that is insufficient to impart that trait to plants transformed with that trait

DNA molecule, but said plurality of trait DNA molecules collectively impart their traits to plants transformed with said DNA construct and effect silencing of the DNA construct, wherein the trait is disease resistance and the trait DNA molecules are derived from a gene encoding a papaya ringspot virus coat protein in a papaya ringspot virus strain selected from the group consisting of TH, KE, KA, ME, YK, BR, JA, OA, VE, and PA.

- 83. A DNA construct according to claim 82, wherein one or
 more of the trait DNA molecules are selected from the group consisting of the
 variable regions and conserved regions of said papaya ringspot viral coat proteins.
 - 84. The DNA construct according to claim 82, wherein one or more of the trait DNA molecules are in the sense (5'→3') orientation.
- 15 85. The DNA construct according to claim 82, wherein one or more of the trait DNA molecules are inserted in the antisense (3'→5') orientation.
 - 86. An expression vector comprising: the DNA construct according to claim 82.

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- 87. A host cell transduced with a DNA construct according to claim 82.
- 88. A host cell according to claim 87, wherein the cell is selected from the group consisting of a bacterial cell, a virus, a yeast cell, and a plant cell.
 - 89. A transgenic plant transformed with a DNA construct according to claim 82.

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90. A transgenic plant according to claim 89, wherein the plant is papaya.

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- 91. A transgenic plant seed transformed with a DNA construct according to claim 82.
- 92. A transgenic plant seed according to claim 91, wherein the 5 plant is papaya.

93. A DNA construct comprising:

a fusion gene comprising:

a trait DNA molecule which has a length that is insufficient to

independently impart a desired trait to plants transformed with said trait DNA

molecule and

a silencer DNA molecule effective to achieve post-transcriptional gene silencing and operatively coupled to said trait DNA molecule, wherein said trait DNA molecule and said silencer DNA molecule collectively impart the trait to the plants transformed with said DNA construct, and wherein the trait DNA molecules are derived from a gene encoding a papaya ringspot viral coat protein from a papaya ringspot virus strain selected from the group consisting of TH, KE, KA, ME, YK, BR, JA, OA, VE, and PA.

94. A DNA construct according to claim 93, further comprising:

a promoter sequence operatively coupled to said fusion gene and a termination sequence operatively coupled to said fusion gene to end transcription.

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95. A DNA construct according to claim 93, wherein said silencer DNA molecule is selected from the group consisting of a viral DNA molecule, a fluorescence protein encoding DNA molecule, a plant DNA molecule, a viral gene silencer, and combinations thereof.

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96. An expression vector comprising: the DNA construct according to claim 93.

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- 97. A host cell transduced with a DNA construct according to claim 93.
- 98. A host cell according to claim 97, wherein the cell is selected from the group consisting of a bacterial cell, a virus, a yeast cell, and a 5 plant cell.
 - 99. A transgenic plant transformed with a DNA construct according to claim 93.

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- 100. A transgenic plant according to claim 36, wherein the plant is papaya.
- 101. A transgenic plant seed transformed with a DNA construct according to claim 93. 15
 - A transgenic plant according to claim 101, wherein the 102. plant is papaya.
- A method of imparting resistance to papaya plants against 20 103. papaya ringspot virus comprising:

transforming a papaya plant with a DNA construct according to claim 2.

A method of imparting resistance to papaya plants against 25 104. papaya ringspot virus comprising:

transforming a papaya plant with a DNA construct according to claim 11.

A method of imparting resistance to papaya plants against 30 105. papaya ringspot virus comprising:

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transforming a papaya plant with a DNA construct according to claim 20.

- A method of imparting viral resistance to papaya plants 106. against papaya ringspot virus comprising: 5 transforming a papaya plant with a DNA construct according to claim 29.
- A method of imparting viral resistance to papaya plants 107. against papaya ringspot virus comprising: 10 transforming a papaya plant with a DNA construct according to claim 38.
- 108. A method of imparting viral resistance to papaya plants against papaya ringspot virus comprising: 15 transforming a papaya plant with a DNA construct according to claim 47.
- A method of imparting viral resistance to papaya plants 109. against papaya ringspot virus comprising: 20 transforming a papaya plant with a DNA construct according to claim 56.
- A method of imparting viral resistance to papaya plants 110. against papaya ringspot virus comprising: 25 transforming a papaya plant with a DNA construct according to claim 65.
- A method of imparting viral resistance to papaya plants 111. against papaya ringspot virus comprising: 30 transforming a papaya plant with a DNA construct according to claim 74.

- 60 -

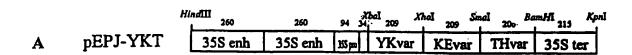
112. A method of imparting viral resistance to papaya plants against papaya ringspot virus comprising:

transforming a papaya plant with a DNA construct according to claim 82.

5

113. A method of imparting viral resistance to papaya plants against papaya ringspot virus comprising:

transforming a papaya plant with a DNA construct according to claim 93.



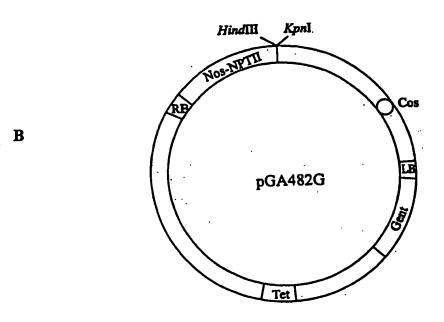


FIGURE 1

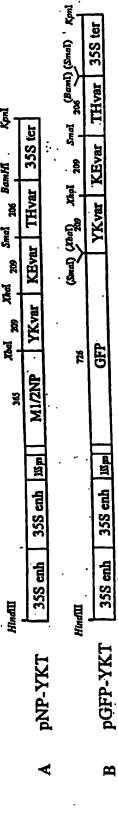


FIGURE 2

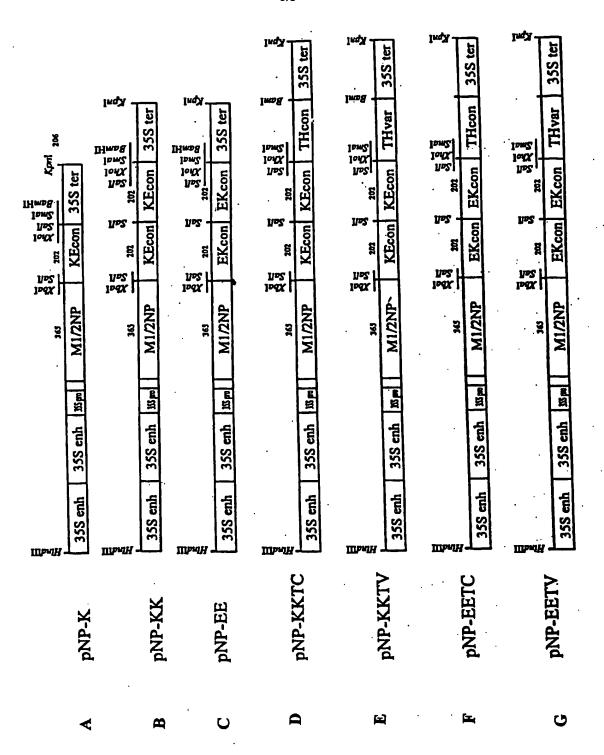


FIGURE 3

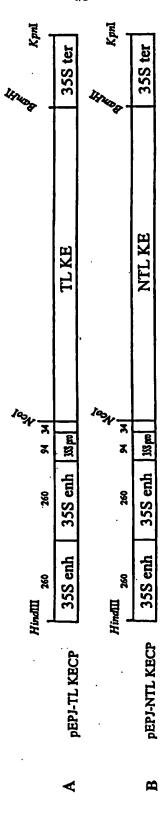


FIGURE 4





FIGURE 5

SEQUENCE LISTING

<110> Gonsalves, Dennis Chiang, Chu-Hui Tennant, Paula F. Gonsalves, Carol V. Sarindu, Nonglak Souza, Jr., Manoel Teixeira Nickel, Osmar Munoz, Gustavo Alberto Fermin Saxena, Sanjay Cai, Wenqi <120> PAPAYA RINGSPOT VIRUS GENES <130> 19603/3381 <140> <141> <150> 60/283,007 <151> 2001-04-11 <160> 36 <170> PatentIn Ver. 2.1 <210> 1 <211> 864 <212>.DNA <213> PRSV-KA-CP <400> 1 tccaagaatg aagctgtgga tgctggtttg aatgaaaaac tcaaagagaa agaaagacag 60 aaagaaaaag aaaaagaaaa acaaaaagaa aaaggaaaag acgatgctag tgacgaaaat 120 qatqtgtcaa ctagcacaaa aactggagag agagatagag atgtcaatgt tgggaccagt 180 ggaactttcg ctgttccgag aattaaatca tttactgata agttgattct accaagaatt 240 aagggaaaga ctgtccttaa tttaagtcat cttcttcagt ataatccgca acaaattgac 300 atttctaaca ctcgtgccac tcagtcacaa tttgagaagt ggtatgaggg agtgagggat 360 gattatggcc ttaatgataa tgaaatgcaa gttatgctaa atggtttgat ggtttggtgt 420 atcgagaatg gtacatctcc agacatatct ggtgtatggg ttatgatgga tgggggaaacc 480 caagttgatt atccaaccaa gcctttaatt gagcatgata ctccgtcatt taggcaaatt 540 atggctcact ttagtaacgc ggcagaagca tacattgcga agagaaatgc tactgagagg 600 tacatgccgc ggtacggaat caagagaaat ttgactgaca ttagcctcgc tagatatgct 660 ttcgacttct atgaggtgaa ttcgaaaaca cctgataggg ctcgcgaagc ccacatgcag 720 atgaaggetg cagegetgeg aaacactagt egeagaatgt ttggtatgga eggeagtgtt 780

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Gly Glu Arg Asp Arg Asp Val Asn Val Gly Thr Ser Gly Thr Phe Ala 50 55 60

Val Pro Arg Ile Lys Ser Phe Thr Asp Lys Leu Ile Leu Pro Arg Ile
65 70 75 80

Lys Gly Lys Thr Val Leu Asn Leu Ser His Leu Leu Gln Tyr Asn Pro 85 90 95

Gln Gln Ile Asp Ile Ser Asn Thr Arg Ala Thr Gln Ser Gln Phe Glu 100 105 110

Lys Trp Tyr Glu Gly Val Arg Asp Asp Tyr Gly Leu Asn Asp Asn Glu
115 120 125

Met Gln Val Met Leu Asn Gly Leu Met Val Trp Cys Ile Glu Asn Gly
130 135 140

Thr Ser Pro Asp Ile Ser Gly Val Trp Val Met Met Asp Gly Glu Thr 145 150 155 160

Gln Val Asp Tyr Pro Thr Lys Pro Leu Ile Glu His Asp Thr Pro Ser 165 170 175

Phe Arg Gln Ile Met Ala His Phe Ser Asn Ala Ala Glu Ala Tyr Ile 180 185 190

Ala Lys Arg Asn Ala Thr Glu Arg Tyr Met Pro Arg Tyr Gly Ile Lys
195 200 205

Arg Asn Leu Thr Asp Ile Ser Leu Ala Arg Tyr Ala Phe Asp Phe Tyr

210 215 220

Glu Val Asn Ser Lys Thr Pro Asp Arg Ala Arg Glu Ala His Met Gln 225 230 235 240

Met Lys Ala Ala Leu Arg Asn Thr Ser Arg Arg Met Phe Gly Met
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- Gly Lys Thr Val Leu Ser Leu Asn His Leu Leu Gln Tyr Asn Pro Gln 85 90 95
- Gln Ile Asp Ile Ser Asn Thr Arg Ala Thr Gln Ser Gln Phe Glu Lys
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- Trp Tyr Glu Gly Val Arg Asn Asp Tyr Gly Leu Asn Asp Asn Glu Met 115 120 125
- Gln Val Met Leu Asn Gly Leu Met Val Trp Cys Ile Glu Asn Gly Thr 130 135 140
- Ser Pro Asp Ile Ser Gly Val Trp Val Met Met Asp Gly Glu Thr Gln
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- Val Asp Tyr Pro Ile Lys Pro Leu Ile Glu His Ala Thr Pro Ser Phe 165 170 175
- Arg Gln Ile Met Ala His Phe Ser Asn Ala Ala Glu Ala Tyr Ile Ala 180 185 190
- Lys Arg Asn Ala Thr Glu Arg Tyr Met Pro Arg Tyr Gly Ile Lys Arg
- Asn Leu Thr Asp Ile Ser Leu Ala Arg Tyr Ala Phe Asp Phe Tyr Glu 210 215 220
- Val Asn Ser Lys Thr Pro Asp Arg Ala Arg Glu Ala His Met Gln Met 225 230 235 240
- Lys Ala Ala Ala Leu Arg Asn Thr Asp Arg Arg Met Phe Gly Met Asp 245 250 255
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Ser Thr Lys Thr Gly Glu Arg Asp Arg Asp Val Asn Val Gly Thr Ser 65 70 75 80

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Phe Asp Phe Tyr Glu Val Asn Ser Lys Thr Pro Asp Arg Ala Arg Glu 245 250 255

Ala His Met Gln Met Lys Ala Ala Leu Arg Asn Thr Ser Arg Arg 260 265 270

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Gln Gln Ile Asp Ile Ser Asn Thr Arg Ala Thr Gln Ser Gln Phe Glu 100 105 110

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Val Pro Arg Ile Lys Ser Phe Thr Asp Lys Met Ile Leu Pro Arg Ile
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Lys Trp Tyr Glu Gly Val Arg Asn Asp Tyr Gly Leu Asn Asp Asn Glu 115 120 125

Met Gln Val Met Leu Asn Gly Leu Met Val Trp Cys Ile Glu Asn Gly 130 135 140

Thr Ser Pro Asp Ile Ser Gly Val Trp Val Met Met Asp Gly Glu Thr 145 150 155 160

Gln Val Asp Tyr Pro Ile Lys Pro Leu Ile Glu His Ala Thr Pro Ser 165 170 175

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Arg Asn Leu Thr Asp Ile Ser Leu Ala Arg Tyr Ala Phe Asp Phe Tyr 210 215 220

Glu Val Asn Ser Lys Thr Pro Asp Arg Ala Arg Glu Ala His Met Gln 225 230 235 240

Met Lys Ala Ala Leu Arg Asn Thr Asn Arg Lys Met Phe Gly Met
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35 40 45

Lys Asp Arg Asp Val Asn Val Gly Thr Ser Gly Thr Phe Thr Val Pro 50 55 60

Arg Ile Lys Ser Phe Thr Asp Lys Met Ile Leu Pro Arg Ile Lys Gly 65 70 75 80

Lys Thr Val Leu Asn Leu Asn His Leu Leu Gln Tyr Asn Pro Gln Gln 85 90 95

Ile Asp Ile Ser Asn Thr Arg Ala Thr Gln Ser Gln Phe Glu Lys Trp
100 105 110

Tyr Glu Gly Val Arg Asn Asp Tyr Gly Leu Asn Asp Asn Glu Met Gln 115 120 125

Val Met Leu Asn Gly Leu Met Val Trp Cys Ile Glu Asn Gly Thr Ser 130 135 140

Pro Asp Ile Ser Gly Val Trp Val Met Met Asp Gly Glu Ile Gln Val
145 150 155 160

Asp Tyr Pro Ile Lys Pro Leu Ile Glu His Ala Thr Pro Ser Phe Arg

Gln Ile Met Ala His Phe Ser Asn Ala Ala Glu Ala Tyr Ile Ala Lys 180 185 190

Arg Asn Ala Thr Glu Arg Tyr Met Pro Arg Tyr Gly Ile Lys Arg Asn 195 200 205

Leu Thr Asp Ile Ser Leu Ala Arg Tyr Ala Phe Asp Phe Tyr Glu Val 210 215 220

Asn Ser Lys Thr Pro Asp Arg Ala Arg Glu Ala His Met Gln Met Lys 225 230 235 240

Ala Ala Leu Arg Asn Thr Ser Arg Arg Met Phe Gly Met Gly Gly
245 250 255

Ser Val Ser Asn Lys Glu Glu Asn Thr Glu Arg His Thr Val Glu Asp 260 265 270

Val Asn Arg Asp Met His Ser Leu Leu Gly Met Arg Asn 275 280 285

<210> 13

<211> 861

<212> DNA

<213> PRSV-BR-CP

<400> 13

tccaaaaatg aagctgtgga tgctggtttg aatgaaaagc gtaaagaaca agagaaacaa 60 gaagaaaaag aagaaaaaca aaaaaagaaa gaaaaagacg atgctagtta cggaaacgat 120 gtqtcaacta gcacaagaac tggagagaga gacagagatg tcaatgttgg gaccagtgga 180 actttcactg ttccgagaac aaaatcattt actgataaga tgattttacc tagaattaag 240 ggaaaaactg teettaattt aaateatetg atteagtata ateegeaaca aattgacatt 300 tctaacactc gtgctactca atcacaattt gagaagtggt acgagggagt gaggaatgat 360 tatgqcctta atgataatga gatgcaaata gtgctaaatg gtttgatggt ttggtgtatc 420 gaaaacggta catctccaga catatctggt gtctgggtta tgatggatgg ggaaacccag 480 gttgactatc caatcaagcc tttaattgag catgctactc cgtcgtttag gcaaattatg 540 gctcatttca gtaacgcggc agaagcatac attacaaaga gaaatgctac tgagaggtac 600 atgccgcggt atgggatcaa gagaaatttg actgacatta gtcttgctag atatgctttc 660 gatttctatg aggtgaattc gaaaacacct gatagggctc gcgaagctca catgcagatg 720 aaagctgcag cgctgcgaaa cactaatcgc agaatgtttg gtatggacgg cagtgttagt 780 aacaaggaag aaaacacgga gagacacaca gtggaagatg tcaatagaga catgcactct 840 861 ctcctgggta tgcgcaactg a

<210> 14

<211> 286

<212> PRT

<213> PRSV-BR-CP

<400> 14

Ser Lys Asn Glu Ala Val Asp Ala Gly Leu Asn Glu Lys Arg Lys Glu

1 5 10 15

Gln Glu Lys Gln Glu Glu Lys Glu Lys Gln Lys Lys Lys Glu Lys
20 25 30

Asp Asp Ala Ser Tyr Gly Asn Asp Val Ser Thr Ser Thr Arg Thr Gly
35 40 45

Glu	Arg 50	Asp	Arg	Asp	Val	Asn 55	Val	Gly	Thr	Ser	Gly 60	Thr	Phe	Thr	Val
Pro	Arq	Thr	Lys	Ser	Phe	Thr	Asp	Lys	Met	Ile	Leu	Pro	Arg	Ile	Lys
65	-		•		70		-	-		75					80
Gly	Lys	Thr	Val	Leu 85	Asn	Leu	Asn	His	Leu 90	Ile	Gln	Tyr	Asn	Pro 95	Gln
Gln	Ile	Asp	Ile 100	Ser	Asn	Thr	Arg	Ala 105	Thr	Gln	Ser	Gln	Phe 110	Glu	Lys
Trp	Tyr	Glu 115	Gly	Val	Arg	Asn	Asp 120	Tyr	Gly	Leu	Asn	Asp 125	Asn	Glu	Met
Gln	Ile 130	Val	Leu	Asn	Gly	Leu 135	Met	Val	Trp	Сув	Ile 140	Glu	Asn	Gly	Thr
Ser 145	Pro	Asp	Ile	Ser	Gly 150	Val	Trp	Val	Met	Met 155	Asp	Gly	Glu	Thr	Gln 160
Val	Asp	Tyr	Pro	Ile 165	Lys	Pro	Leu	Ile	Glu 170	His	Ala	Thr	Pro	Ser 175	Phe
Arg	Gln	Île	Met 180	Ala	His	Phe	Ser	Asn 185	Ala	Ala	Glu	Ala	Tyr 190	Ile	Thr
Lys.	Arg	Asn 195	Ala	Thr	Glu	Arg	Tyr 200	Met	Pro	Arg	Tyr	Gly 205	Ile	Lys	Arg
Asn	Leu 210	Thr	Asp	Ile	Ser	Leu 215	Ala	Arg	Tyr	Ala	Phe 220	Asp	Phe	Tyr	Glu
Val 225	Asn	Ser	Lys	Thr	Pro 230	Asp	Arg	Ala	Arg	Glu 235	Ala	His	Met	Gln	Met 240
Lys	Ala	Ala	Ala	Leu 245	Arg	Asn	Thr	Asn	Arg 250	Arg	Met	Phe	Gly	Met 255	Asp
Gly	Ser	Val	Ser 260	Asn	Lys	Glu	Glu	Asn 265	Thr	Glu	Arg	His	Thr 270	Val	Glu
Asp	Val	Asn 275	Arg	Asp	Met	His	Ser 280	Leu	Leu	Gly	Met	Arg 285	Asn		

<210> 15 <211> 864

<212> DNA

<213> PRSV-JA-CP

<400> 15

totaaaaatg aagotgtgga tgotggttta aatgaaaago toaaagaaaa agaaaaacag 60 aaagataaag aaaaagaaaa acaaaaagat aaagaaaaag gagatgctag tgacggaaat 120 qatqqttcga ctagcacaaa aactggagag agagatagag atgtcaatgt tgggaccagt 180 qqaacttcca ctgttccgag aattaaatca ttcactgata agatggttct accaagaatt 240 aagggaaaaa ctgtccttaa tttaaatcat cttcttcagt ataatccaca acaaattgac 300 atttctaaca ctcgtgccac tcagtcacaa tttgagaagt ggtacgaagg agtgaggagt 360 gattatggcc taaatgatag tgaaatgcaa gtgacgctaa atggcttgat ggtttggtgt 420 atcgagaatg gtacatctcc agacatatct ggtgtctggg ttatgatgga tgggggaaacc 480 caagttgatt atccaatcaa gcctttaatt gagcacgcta ccccatcatt taggcagatt 540 atggctcact tcagtaacgc ggcagaagca tacactgcaa agagaaatgc tactgagagg 600 tacatqccqc ggtatggaat caagagaaat ttgactgaca ttagtctcgc tagatacgct 660 ttcgatttct atgaggtgaa ttcgaagaca cctgataggg ctcgtgaagc tcacatgcag 720 atgaaagctg cagcgctgcg aaacactaat cgcagaatgt ttggtatgga cggcagtgtt 780 agtaacaatg aagaaaacac ggagagacac acagtggaag atgtctatat agacatgcac 840 864 tctctcctgc gtttgcgcaa ctga

<210> 16

<211> 287

<212> PRT

<213> PRSV-JA-CP

<400> 16

Ser Lys Asn Glu Ala Val Asp Ala Gly Leu Asn Glu Lys Leu Lys Glu
1 5 10 15

Lys Glu Lys Gln Lys Asp Lys Glu Lys Glu Lys Gln Lys Asp Lys Glu
20 25 30

Lys Gly Asp Ala Ser Asp Gly Asn Asp Gly Ser Thr Ser Thr Lys Thr
35 40 45

Gly Glu Arg Asp Arg Asp Val Asn Val Gly Thr Ser Gly Thr Ser Thr
50 55 60

Val Pro Arg Ile Lys Ser Phe Thr Asp Lys Met Val Leu Pro Arg Ile
65 70 75 80

Lys Gly Lys Thr Val Leu Asn Leu Asn His Leu Leu Gln Tyr Asn Pro 85 90 95

Gln Gln Ile Asp Ile Ser Asn Thr Arg Ala Thr Gln Ser Gln Phe Glu 100 105 110

Lys Trp Tyr Glu Gly Val Arg Ser Asp Tyr Gly Leu Asn Asp Ser Glu 115 120 125

Met Gln Val Thr Leu Asn Gly Leu Met Val Trp Cys Ile Glu Asn Gly
130 135 140

Thr Ser Pro Asp Ile Ser Gly Val Trp Val Met Met Asp Gly Glu Thr
145 150 155 160

Gln Val Asp Tyr Pro Ile Lys Pro Leu Ile Glu His Ala Thr Pro Ser 165 170 175

Phe Arg Gln Ile Met Ala His Phe Ser Asn Ala Ala Glu Ala Tyr Thr 180 185 190

Ala Lys Arg Asn Ala Thr Glu Arg Tyr Met Pro Arg Tyr Gly Ile Lys
. 195 200 205

Arg Asn Leu Thr Asp Ile Ser Leu Ala Arg Tyr Ala Phe Asp Phe Tyr 210 215 220

Glu Val Asn Ser Lys Thr Pro Asp Arg Ala Arg Glu Ala His Met Gln 225 230 235 240

Met Lys Ala Ala Leu Arg Asn Thr Asn Arg Arg Met Phe Gly Met 245 250 255

Asp Gly Ser Val Ser Asn Asn Glu Glu Asn Thr Glu Arg His Thr Val 260 265 270

Glu Asp Val Tyr Ile Asp Met His Ser Leu Leu Arg Leu Arg Asn 275 280 285

<210> 17

<211> 864

<212> DNA

<213> PRSV-OA-CP

<400> 17

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caagtcgatt atccaatcaa gcctttgatt gagcatgcta ctccgtcatt taggcaaatt 540 atggctcact ttagtaacgc ggcagaagca tacattgcga agagaaatgc tactgagagg 600 tacatgccgc ggtatggaat caagagaaat ttgactgaca ttagcctcgc tagatacgct 660 ttcgactttt atgaggtgaa ttcgaaaaca cctgatagag ctcgcgaagc tcacatgcag 720 atgaaggctg cagcgctgcg aaacaccagt cgcagaatgt ttggtatgga cggcagtgtt 780 agtaacaagg aagaaaacac ggagagacac acagtggaag atgtcaatag agacatgcac 840 tctctcctgg gtatgcgcaa ctaa

<210> 18

<211> 287

<212> PRT

<213> PRSV-OA-CP

<400> 18

Ser Lys Asn Glu Ala Val Asp Ala Gly Leu Asn Glu Lys Phe Lys Glu

1 5 10 15

Lys Glu Lys Gl

Lys Asp Gly Ala Ser Asp Glu Asn Asp Val Ser Thr Ser Thr Lys Thr
35 40 45

Gly Glu Arg Asp Arg Asp Val Asn Val Gly Thr Ser Gly Thr Phe Thr
50 55 60

Val Pro Arg Ile Lys Ser Phe Thr Asp Lys Met Ile Leu Pro Arg Ile
65 70 75 80

Lys Gly Lys Ala Val Leu Asn Leu Asn His Leu Leu Gln Tyr Asn Pro 85 90 95

Gln Gln Ile Asp Ile Ser Asn Thr Arg Ala Ala His Ser Gln Phe Glu 100 105 110

Lys Trp Tyr Glu Gly Val Arg Asn Asp Tyr Ala Leu Asn Asp Asn Glu 115 120 125

Met Gln Val Met Leu Asn Gly Leu Met Val Trp Cys Ile Glu Asn Gly
130 135 140

Thr Ser Pro Asp Ile Ser Gly Val Trp Val Met Met Asp Gly Glu Thr
145 150 155 160

Gln Val Asp Tyr Pro Ile Lys Pro Leu Ile Glu His Ala Thr Pro Ser 165 170 175

Phe Arg Gln Ile Met Ala His Phe Ser Asn Ala Ala Glu Ala Tyr Ile 190 185 180 Ala Lys Arg Asn Ala Thr Glu Arg Tyr Met Pro Arg Tyr Gly Ile Lys 205 200 195 Arg Asn Leu Thr Asp Ile Ser Leu Ala Arg Tyr Ala Phe Asp Phe Tyr 215 220 210 Glu Val Asn Ser Lys Thr Pro Asp Arg Ala Arg Glu Ala His Met Gln 240 235 230 225 Met Lys Ala Ala Leu Arg Asn Thr Ser Arg Arg Met Phe Gly Met 245 250 Asp Gly Ser Val Ser Asn Lys Glu Glu Asn Thr Glu Arg His Thr Val 265 270 260 Glu Asp Val Asn Arg Asp Met His Ser Leu Leu Gly Met Arg Asn 285 275 280 <210> 19 <211> 885 <212> DNA <213> PRSV-VE-CP <220> <221> unsure <222> (678) <223> M at position 678 in this sequence is either a or C <400> 19 atggctgtgg atgctggttt gaatgggaag ctcaaagaaa aagagaaaaa agaaaaagaa 60 aaagaaaaac agaaagagaa agagaaagat gatgctagtg acggaaatga tgtgtcaact 120 agcacaaaaa ctggagagag agatagagat gtcaatattg ggaccagtgg aactttcact 180 gtccctagga ttaaatcatt tactgataag atgattttac cgagaattaa gggaaagact 240 gtccttaatt taaatcatct tcttcagtat aatccgaaac aaattgacat ttctaatact 300

cqtgccactc agtcgcaatt tgagaaatgg tatgagggag tgagggatga ttatggcctt 360 aatqataatq aaatgcaagt gatgctaaat ggcttgatgg tttggtgcat tgagaatggt 420 acatetecag acatatetgg tgtttgggtt atggtggatg gggaaaceca agttgattat 480 ccaatcaagc ctttaattga gcatgctaca ccgtcattta ggcaaattat ggctcatttt 540 agtaacgcgg cagaagcata cattgcgatg agaaatgcta ctgagaggta catgccgcgg 600 tatggaatca agagaaattt gactgacatc aacctagctc gatacgcttt tgatttctat 660 gaggtgaatt cgaaaacmcc tgatagggct cgtgaagctc acatgcagat gaaggctgca 720 getttgegaa acactaateg cagaatgttt ggtategaeg geagtgttag caacaaggaa 780 qaaaacacgg agagacacac agtggatgat gtcaatagag acatgcactc tctcctgggt 840

atgcgcaact aaatactcgc acttgtgtgt ttgtcgagcc tgact

885

<210> 20

<211> 282

<212> PRT

<213> PRSV-VE-CP

<220>

<221> UNSURE

<222> (225)

<223> Xaa at position 225 in this sequence is any amino acid

<400> 20

Met Ala Val Asp Ala Gly Leu Asn Gly Lys Leu Lys Glu Lys Glu Lys 1 5 10 15

Lys Glu Lys Glu Lys Glu Lys Glu Lys Glu Lys Asp Asp Ala 20 25 30

Ser Asp Gly Asn Asp Val Ser Thr Ser Thr Lys Thr Gly Glu Arg Asp 35 40 45

Arg Asp Val Asn Ile Thr Ser Gly Thr Phe Thr Val Pro Arg Ile Lys
50 55 60

Ser Phe Thr Asp Lys Met Ile Leu Pro Arg Ile Lys Gly Lys Thr Val 65 70 75 80

Leu Asn Leu Asn His Leu Leu Gln Tyr Asn Pro Lys Gln Ile Asp Ile 85 90 95

Ser Asn Thr Arg Ala Thr Gln Ser Gln Phe Glu Lys Trp Tyr Glu Gly
100 105 110

Val Arg Asp Asp Tyr Gly Leu Asn Asp Asn Glu Met Gln Val Met Leu 115 120 125

Asn Gly Leu Met Val Trp Cys Ile Glu Asn Gly Thr Ser Pro Asp Ile 130 135 140

Ser Gly Val Trp Val Met Val Asp Gly Glu Thr Gln Val Asp Tyr Pro 145 150 155 160

Ile Lys Pro Leu Ile Glu His Ala Thr Pro Ser Phe Arg Gln Ile Met 165 . 170 175

Ala His Phe Ser Asn Ala Ala Glu Ala Tyr Ile Ala Met Arg Asn Ala 180 185 190 Thr Glu Arg Tyr Met Pro Arg Tyr Gly Ile Lys Arg Asn Leu Thr Asp 200 205 195 Ile Asn Leu Ala Arg Tyr Ala Phe Asp Phe Tyr Glu Val Asn Ser Lys 215 220 210 Xaa Pro Asp Arg Ala Arg Glu Ala His Met Gln Met Lys Ala Ala Ala 235 240 230 225 Leu Arg Asn Thr Asn Arg Arg Met Phe Gly Ile Asp Gly Ser Val Ser 255 250 245 Asn Lys Glu Glu Asn Thr Glu Arg His Thr Val Asp Asp Val Asn Arg 260 265 Asp Met His Ser Leu Leu Gly Met Arg Asn 275 280 <210> 21 <211> 35 <212> DNA <213> Artificial Sequence <220> <223> Description of Artificial Sequence: Amplification Oligos <400> 21 35 gagatctaga taatgatacc ggtctgaatg agaag <210> 22 <211> 28 <212> DNA <213> Artificial Sequence <220> <223> Description of Artificial Sequence: Amplification Oligos

28

<400> 22

ggatctcgag agatcatctt atcagtaa

<210> 23 <211> 29 <212> DNA <213> Artificial Sequence <220> <223> Description of Artificial Sequence: Amplification Oligos <400> 23 29 tagactcgag tgctggtttg aatgaaaaa <210> 24 <211> 28 <212> DNA <213> Artificial Sequence <220> · <223> Description of Artificial Sequence: Amplification Oligos <400> 24 28 cgatcccggg gaatcaactt atcagtaa <210> 25 <211> 29 <212> DNA <213> Artificial Sequence <220> <223> Description of Artificial Sequence: Amplification Oligos <400> 25 29 tatacccggg tgctggtctt aatgagaag <210> 26 <211> 28 <212> DNA <213> Artificial Sequence <223> Description of Artificial Sequence: Amplification Oligos

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<400> 26		•
ctacggatcc aaatcatctt gtcggtaa		28
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<220>		
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Oligos		
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tcaatctaga gtcgacgcta gatatgcttt cgac		34
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Oligos	•	
<400> 28		34
aagtetegag gtegaceeca ggagagagtg catg		54
<210> 29		
<211> 28		
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<223> Description of Artificial Sequence:	Amplification	
Oligos		
<400> 29		
aatacccggg gctagatatg ctttcgac		28
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<213> Artificial Sequence

	Description of Artificial Sequence: Oligos	Amplification	
<400>			28
	atcc cctaggagag agtgcatg		20
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agctaa	ccat ggaatcaagg agcactgatg attatc		36
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atttgg	gatec eggggttgeg catgeecagg agagag		36
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<210> 34

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	Oligos		
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	Oligos		
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